

Manitoba, No. 5.

As we journeyed to Manitoba we conversed with numbers of the passengers on the train, most of whom held very high opinions about the country. Many had been there and were returning, some with their families, some were taking stock with them, others were taking merchandise; many ladies and their families were going to their husbands, who were settled there. We ascertained the circumstances, positions and prospects of most of them. We purpose giving you the experience of Mr. Plaxton, who appeared to us as being more like the average of our readers, and a man of energy, intelligence and enterprise. He was formerly a farmer in Middlesex. He went to Manitoba and travelled about it. He did not suit himself in getting a location, and preferred to go 500 miles north-west, to the Saskatchewan Valley, to examine the country. There he selected a location and put his land under cultivation, and was then returning to Manitoba with his wife and family. His reasons for going so far were stated thus: The land in Manitoba, near Winnipeg, is too wet, and is very difficult to drain; there are too many reserves in Manitoba; the land is in the hands of speculators and he did not believe in stopping there to make roads and improve the property for their benefit, and pay for the land besides. He added:—"On the Saskatchewan we have far better land; we can raise more wheat per acre; it is a better stock country." He liked the soil and water better. We enquired of him what he would do for a market there. He said they had a better market than Manitoba.

The cost of freight on provisions to the Saskatchewan is \$6 per 100 lbs. The Canadian Government must either feed or fight the Indians. The former would be the course that Canada would adopt, and he intended to raise grain and cattle. He had no fear about a market. A person lacked judgment, in his opinion, to pay for land in Manitoba when they could get plenty of better land on the Saskatchewan free. It is our opinion that Mr. Plaxton will come out in the long run as well as any passenger on that train. The state of the roads prevented us from reaching the Saskatchewan Valley. Besides his family he took stock, implements, and two years' supply of meat and groceries. His bread he had already raised there. We are convinced that many who go to Manitoba become excited and are apt to purchase too hastily. A person going there should take plenty of time to look about, and never be in a hurry to jump at what he first thinks to be a bargain. The Government must fix a tax on all this land held in speculation. No reserve should be exempt. The tax should be made to fall extremely light on an immigrant who only holds land enough to raise his bread and support his family, as these are the men who improve the country for the benefit of those land grabbers who are a curse to the Province. The voice of the people will demand this also. The placing in office of ignorant, inefficient men because they are their friends, or may have supported some political party, is another great detriment to Manitoba. Despite the many drawbacks which are always to be found in new countries there is a grand future before this great North West territory. We quote the following from an exchange:—

At a dinner given in Winnipeg to the English Commissioners, a great future for Canada, as the great wheat-growing country of America, was predicted by the speakers. Mr. Taylor, U. S. Consul, explained the three great productive belts of North America, speaking of the cotton belt of the south, the corn and pork belt to the north of that, and then the great wheat and meat belt of the north, three-fourths of which at least is comprehended within the Canadian Northwest. The great country between the Red and Peace rivers

was to supply the Old World in the future. Minnesota was only on the southern margin of this belt. Canada was to be the great future grain supplier of the world, with Russia her only competitor. The meat supply of Canada, he said, was superior to anything that could be furnished in the United States. The Commissioners, Messrs. Pell, M. P., and Reed, M. P., expressed very favorable opinions of the country, Mr. Reed, a thorough practical English farmer, saying:—"Manitoba has the best and most productive land in the world."

(To be continued.)

Ten Million Dollars per Annum.

The Hon. Wm. G. Le Duc, U. S. Minister of Agriculture at Washington, has issued a well-prepared and clearly illustrated work on the diseases of farm stock. It treats very fully of pleuropneumonia and hog cholera. It shows that the loss to American farmers amounts to *ten million dollars* per annum by the death of hogs from this disease. We ask Canadian farmers to discuss this subject at every store, hotel, blacksmith shop, and at home. We have told you that this disease has been imported into Canada on more occasions than one. The Board of Agriculture has done nothing towards preventing the introduction and spread of this dangerous disease among your stock. The Government has not been pressed as much as they should have been to prevent the importation of American hogs amongst us. When diseases are once fairly set going in a country who can estimate the loss. Prevention is what we should ask for. The time is coming when greater care will be exercised in selecting pure and healthy meat, and such meat will command a much higher price than when danger is known to exist. Meat from diseased hogs, we know, has been sold in Canada, and who can say that trichina may not be doing its work amongst some of our droves. Our Government has done one good act in preventing the importation of American cattle into our Dominion. They will not act for the best interests of the farmers if they allow that restriction to be removed through the persuasion of persons favorable to the United States, or for railway interests until the last vestige of a chance of introducing pleuropneumonia has long passed away. From recent accounts there have been fresh outbreaks of this disease in the States. Every reader of this journal should let his voice be heard and ask that our stock be kept free from the probability of being infected, and that American hogs be kept out of our Dominion also.

IMPORTED DISEASE.—The Agricultural Gazette (England) speaks thus of the results of the prohibition of diseased animals from America:—"The Kentucky Live Stock Record courteously challenges the accuracy of the following sentence taken from these columns:—Since England checked the importation of cattle, she has become almost entirely clear of the more virulent disease, and has, we venture to say, as healthy herds as any country in the world. We assure our contemporary that this sentence is literally true. The success of the severe measures of the English Government (unpalatable as they were at the time to numerous cattle breeders and dealers) can no longer be gainsaid. Since the trade in live stock has been restricted, and supervision insisted on, the country previously over-run with "foot and mouth," and seriously affected with the "pleuro," has become exactly what is written above, almost entirely clear of the more virulent diseases, and such success following upon the terrible loss of 1876 and 1877, demonstrates the wisdom of continuing the surveillance, which has produced such happy results."

With the frosts of October will close the year of garden work.

Trees may be safely set if a good supply of roots are taken every season when without leaf.

November is said to be the best month to transplant evergreens. Try it.

A Dominion Farmers' Club Suggested.

\$50 OFFERED IN PREMIUMS.

The state of our public agricultural affairs cannot exist much longer as they are or as they have been for years past. Farmers are now just beginning to see that political influences, city and local interests, American and personal interests, are and have been considered rather than the interests of the real practical farmers, and that much of the money which is exacted from the farmer is expended against his interest rather than for his benefit. In no country in the world is agriculture carried on in such a complete manner as in Britain; in no country are there finer agricultural exhibitions, conducted on more useful and honorable principles than in Britain. We believe the Government does not give one cent towards the Royal Agricultural Exhibition, or for model farms or schools of agriculture; neither does the Government expend its money in raising stock or crops to compete against private enterprise. It is our opinion that if Government were to leave the farmers to manage their own affairs they would be managed much more beneficially and economically than they are now. People that have only the one object in view, namely, that of getting all the money and all the patronage for as little as they can, are not so efficient in their positions as men who have an interest in the work they undertake. The efficient management of the Industrial Exhibition is due to the energetic, efficient and judicious supervision of the volunteer managers. The high position obtained by the Western Fair is due to the same cause. The great loss and the enormous cost of the Provincial Exhibition is due to causes alluded to. While the two former exhibitions have added to their resources, and have done much more good this year than the Provincial Exhibition; they have done no harm that we are aware of, whereas the Provincial Exhibition and its managers have done much harm, perhaps an irreparable injury. We shall all be called upon to pay from our hard earnings more money to keep that inefficient, rotten institution in existence, for if it is to be supported the present funds cannot sustain it; and yet the President in his last address, alludes to the necessity of enacting a law to prevent the success of the private exhibitions, such as the Industrial, Western, Union, &c. We do not think the farmers in this the 19th century would support a Member of Parliament who would dare bring such a Bill before the House.

The Model Farm was established for the benefit of an individual. The ground on which it is established is the worst that could be selected for testing. The sale of produce has interfered very materially to the injury of private enterprise. Managers and officers have been selected for political purposes. McCandless, the American, the first manager, no doubt was elected for favors received or expected by its main controller, Christie. Americans were allowed to make purchases of stock which had cost us Canadian farmers ten times more than was received from the Americans for them. This purchase, small as it may have been, plainly indicates what we might expect. Again, when information was wanted for the benefit of Canadians about a certain test made, the information the Canadians got was that no information was to be given before the Board were first informed; and as the American Senate rules, the first information must be for the Americans. Can we take a better pattern than from the Royal Agricultural Association, of England? The Elmira Farmers' Club, in New York, imparts a vast amount of valuable information to its members and to the public.