

parties, whose motives I will not here discuss. In the next place, these frosts are of a local rather than of a general character, and, lastly, that as the country becomes more settled they will disappear altogether. I will leave it to my friend Professor Macoun, who has studied these frosts from a scientific and practical point of view, to explain their nature and extent, and I think the conclusion that will be arrived at after hearing him will be that they will never prove a serious drawback to the country.

The North-West has had several visitations which, according to the wiseacres of the day, were destined to make the country valueless, and yet it has survived and prospered. For instance, there were the floods caused by the overflow of the river. The first flood took place in 1776, the second in 1790, the third in 1809, the fourth in 1826, and the last in 1852, and since then the nearest approach to a flood has been the overflow of a few acres of low-lying land here and there close to the river bank. At no time were the prairies flooded for any great distance from the river, yet in the old days the floods were freely quoted as one of the chief reasons why the country would never be fit for settlement. I remember also, in the old days, we used to have grasshopper visitations, and very destructive pests these were, but they also seem to disappear with settlement; and although I have heard them in times past freely quoted as another reason why the country could never be successfully settled, yet one never hears of grasshoppers now in the North-West. Minnesota and Dakota suffered in their earlier days in the same way from floods and grasshoppers; but they too have survived them. So will it be with early frosts; as the country becomes settled we will hear less and less of this so-called drawback. One blessing, however, the Canadian North-West has ever enjoyed, and that is a freedom from the hurricanes which so frequently devastate the western and other parts of the United States. That this is a blessing which we North-Western Canadians have reason to be thankful for may be gathered from the sad stories of havoc and suffering of which we have recently read as taking place in different parts of America.

I need hardly refer to the different products of the North-West. A glance through the agricultural section of the Canadian Court will give you a better idea of what they are, and the excellence of their quality, than any description I can here give. That the wheat, oats and barley are unsurpassed, the potatoes and roots unrivalled, are points not disputed,