

forced himself to meet the benefactor on his own ground of rational debate.

'It was not, originally, any part of our scheme here to beg for maintenance,' he said, feeling almost shamefacedly that everything he had done was indeed overpaid by generosity like this, 'it is only because the district does not yet find itself in a position to take up the insurance plan widely enough, that we have reached an impasse. But there are changes pending round about which may very materially influence the prosperity of the district for good—' he outlined their scope and bearing, 'and it is certainly to be hoped that in a few years time the Hospital will be supported without difficulty.'

The Doctor was aware that a good deal of this plain speaking about wheat must occasion if not a remonstrance on the score of exaggeration, at least a protest of some sort, and Mr Henslow, one of the visitors, immediately made it.

'You talk of bad harvests,' he said, 'during the last few years, but that can be only local—perhaps this has been, for some unaccountable reason, an unfortunate area ; as a rule nothing can exceed the heaviness and the excellence of our Alberta crops. I don't like to hear this sort of thing—it's misleading ; gives a bad impression.'

If Liston had been an impatient man he would have exclaimed against the tone of this. As it was, he wished he had what he called a good fire going in his corn cob