

colour and texture, would sufficiently represent the large belts of clay loam to the west and south. The supply of water, which is of much importance in the North-West, is ample, of good quality and not difficult to obtain. Its nearness to Indian Head, less than one mile, brings the farm within walking distance of hotels where visitors can obtain accommodation, also affording excellent facilities for obtaining mail matter and supplies in general.

The district has a good record of crops and it is rare to find so many desirable features for experimental work in agriculture, horticulture and forestry combined in a single section of bare prairie land as are found in the farm referred to. It may appear at first sight that a section of land comprising 640 acres is an unnecessarily large area to devote to experimental purposes, but when the requirements of pasture are considered, and the fact that in order to farm successfully in the North-West one-third at least of the cultivated land should be in summer fallow every year, also that the experiments in forest tree planting will in time cover a very large surface, it will be seen that much more land will be needed there than would be required in a farm for similar purposes located outside of the prairie country. The magnitude of the territory is such and the interests at stake so important that a sufficient quantity of land for satisfactory work in all these departments should be provided.

The relatively short distance between the two farms selected as sites for the Experimental Farms for the North-West Territories and Manitoba—182 miles by rail—will naturally raise the question as to the necessity for two farms so near each other. In the remarks on the Experimental Farm for Manitoba, the chief reasons are given which influenced that selection. The Brandon site fairly represents the Province of Manitoba also the country for nearly 30 miles into the Territories, beyond this changes begin to take place in the climate, which become more marked by the time Broadview is reached. From thence westward towards Moose Jaw the climate is very different from that which prevails in Manitoba, the rainfall is usually less and occasional hot winds prevail during the summer, which are, I believe, unknown further east. These and other climatic peculiarities, oblige the farmers in the Territories beyond the narrow belt to which reference has been made, to adopt different methods in treating the soil to prepare it for crop. There are also important differences in the soil itself as to texture and character. The farm at Indian Head has soil which represents these peculiar characteristics which the Brandon farm has not. Further the farm at Indian Head is an open prairie section, was without a tree or shrub when purchased, while the Brandon site is partly a valley farm with sheltered ravines clothed with shrubs and small trees. The question of forest tree growing is of very great importance to that vast country included in the Territories as well as to Manitoba, but experiments carried on at Brandon, while reliable for Manitoba, would be no safe guide to the farmers on the wide stretches of prairies in the Territories. The differences of climate, soil and situation are abundantly sufficient to warrant the establishment of the two farms, and with experimental operations in agriculture, horticulture and forestry carried on at each, a vast amount of useful and practical information will soon be gained which will be of great value to farmers in every part of that country and meet in large measure the varying conditions to which they are individually subjected. Where the differences referred to clearly exist, the question of distance between the two farms is not a matter of much importance, as the special operations to be carried on at each point can be made quite as useful and instructive with the farms only 182 miles distant from each other as they would be were they 500 miles apart. The climate and other variations referred to, while important in their influence on field crops, fruits and forest trees, have comparatively little effect on stock, hence the work carried on in this direction, may, with judicious economy, be varied so as to avoid unnecessary repetition, and different lines of experiment with different classes of animals, conducted at each place.

Possession of the Indian Head farm was had early in the spring, when the superintendent, Mr. Angus Mackay, began the work. Evidence of the vigor with which this has been carried on will be found in Mr. Mackay's report, which is appended. The change in the appearance of the place is most marked, some very useful results