

the accession of Indian half breeds) to the state of very important settlements, occupying about 100 miles of the shores of the Red and Assiniboine rivers. The half breeds are of French, Scotch and English extraction, and are citizens of which any nation should feel proud. The different classes are settled separately; and there is also a settlement of pure-blooded Indians, who have comfortable houses, and are, for the most part, engaged in agriculture. Considering the isolation of these citizens, their success has been most remarkable. Their farms, buildings, churches, schools, cemeteries and all the other appurtenances of civilized life compare favorably with those of eastern settlements, and, in many cases surpass them.

#### CULTIVATION,

These settlers have in many instances cultivated their farms, for more than 50 years, without the aid of fertilizers, and have harvested from 30 to 50 bushels per acre of spring wheat. Roots and other staples are equally good crops, except when devastated by grasshopper, a circumstance which has occurred about six times since 1812. The soil is rich to a fault, and barnyard manure was disposed of by dumping it into the river until, two years ago, when the Local Legislature prohibited the practice. I think that this immense fertility is one of the highest recommendations to the northwest territory. The grasshopper is an occasional visitant to all the country west of 94° from the Rio Grande to the McKenzie river. It resembles the small specimens of the same *genus* seen in the province of Quebec, but is stronger, brighter colored, and very nimble. It has two pairs of wings, and is of very different habits. In August the first indication of its approach is a sort of humming noise in the upper atmosphere. Soon specks are visible in the air, like dust in the sun beam, and

sparkle like diamonds, being as plentiful as grains of sand upon the sea shore. If black clouds pass between them and the sun, large detachments of them settle to the surface of the earth, sometimes covering large areas. There they burrow and deposit their eggs, about an inch beneath the surface, and disappear. The young are first seen early in the following May and soon begin to eat ravenously, grow rapidly, and, when about 40 days old, commence travelling, (as if by concerted signal,) to some point of the compass, and, by a process of hopping and trotting attain a surprising degree of speed. They hop about 30 inches. The trot, (which is performed as if the insects were running for dear life,) is nearly 13 inches. This mode of travel is continued until a favorable wind arises, when they take wing and disappear as mysteriously as they came. The new settlers believe that if every farmer sowed as usual, in the season threatened with grasshoppers, the loss of each would be but slight; while, according to the prevailing custom, only one or two in a place plant or sow. All the grasshoppers concentrate upon this spot and devour its products. They do but little harm to the prairie grass even when they are numerous.

Mr. McKenzie, formerly of Paisley, Ont., who lives 70 miles west of Fort Garry, Mr. McRae, of White Wood River, 20 miles further west, from Ashfield, Ont., Mr. Correy, and Mr. Ferguson, of the same place, and many other farmers who moved from Ontario, and who have seen three winters in the west, state that the winters in Manitoba are pleasanter and much less severe on stock than those of Ontario. Snow, which is light and drifts but little, disappears about the 10th of March, leaving no frost in the ground. Wheat sowing begins the first week in April; hay making and harvesting is finished by the end of August. Frosty