

old Cheshire breed and the giants of the porcine race. They were remarkably long, stood very high on long, bony legs, heads large, ears long and hanging; backs much curved and narrow; sides flat and deep; their color was white, blue and white and black and white. Mr. Cully, in his "Observations on Live-stock," published in 1807, as an illustration of the gigantic proportions and astonishing weights to which this breed attains, says: "On Monday, 24th January, 1774, a pig (fed by Mr. Jos. Lawton, of Cheshire) measured from nose to end of tail 3 yards 8 inches, and in height 4 feet 5 inches; when alive it weighed 1,410 lbs., and when dead it weighed 1,215 lbs." The Cheshire pig having been crossed with other breeds as a pure breed is now practically extinct.

AGRICOLA.

### Manitoba still Progressing.

(From our own correspondent.)

A month ago there were many promising indications to be noted here. The weather, since, has been of a kind to fully sustain the most sanguine of those indications. Ten days ago, after a hot gale from the south-west that made well up to 80° in the shade, we had rain enough in two nights to make up two inches. The last winter was a very dry one, and this splendid rain fall was just in time to save the states to the south of us from a short crop. Here we seldom expect rain till early in June, and though not so badly off as our neighbors, the only progress made by our grain crops was by the roots spreading underground as the effect of constant sunshine. It is this spreading of the roots, even when cold, dry winds keep down the early blade, that explains the rapid growth of our cereals after heat does set in. Last June up to the 9th, the show above ground was very slight, but showers and a spell of hot weather made an almost tropical growth for the next six weeks.

The early rain of this spring was followed by a spell of cold and dull weather, about the very best thing for us. Every green thing is practically about a month earlier now than at the same date last year, and with all that start we are safer to have only moderate heat for a week or two yet.

There is ample feed for stock, with a fair surplus of hay still on hand, and all have come through the winter in the best of condition.

This early seeding and early rain is sure to invite a large additional breaking of new land. There is in fact little work of any consequence to be done for two months, we raise so very little of green crop, and a good acreage of breaking can be done between this and haying. To the new men from Ontario this is a specially favorable year. They may begin to break now, and with the chances of a fair amount of rainfall yet to come, they may be able to do an amount of breaking far beyond the possibilities of an ordinary season. I have known a man who never before put plow in a prairie sod, break, backset and harrow three times, 40 acres of land in a bad year with one yoke of oxen, and a pushing family from the east bent on making their mark here may be reckoned to beat that record by a long way.

If the early season is very favorable for the Eastern men who came early among us and bought, it has been just the reverse for the adventure men who came along with them on the chance of getting hired. Some such are always wanted, but farmers are not flush in offering tempting wages to strangers for assistance in doing what they have time enough to do for themselves. Thrift in keeping away from all unnecessary out goings is a leading point in farming administration now pretty well understood here, and

some farm hands that were shy of \$20 a month six weeks since would be glad to take \$15 to-day.

Old country immigrants who came later are pretty hard to place, especially if English. Some of these English are, if previously familiar with real work, hard to beat as workers, but the young men who come from comfortable homes to make money here, and can hardly be trusted to give a cow a drink, fare very badly indeed. The man will always get on best here whose skill, industry and perseverance form the biggest half of his capital. Capitalists who have only cash to invest get left nine times out of ten and sometimes very badly.

Another bright example of this good old English idea, that capital is sure to command success, may be seen in the recently floated big scheme of Sir John Lister Kaye out along the main line west. Not one man out of a score here has the least doubt as to the ultimate result of that scheme, the only point open to conjecture is, how long it will last.

Another venture of the same sort, started some years back with one large farm near Winnipeg and a big block more in the Qu'Appelle valley. They have just sold out the remnant of their stock and outfit after dropping a good pile of money over their venture. Of course the "blawsted country" will get all the blame and not the bumptious administrators. In this country "he that by the plow would thrive, himself must either hold or drive" and must at the same time know pretty well what he is driving at. Manitoba is not a paradise of fools, but for good half-section farmers I know of no better place. It is not at all difficult to find men who can raise 100 acres of grain with half-a-dollar an acre laid out for hired help.

In stock raising, fair profits have been made by men who sold at the right time. At Easter four cents a pound live weight was made for good cattle—not a bad return for all the work we spend on them.

We are starting at least three new creameries in the north-west of this province just now, but we are very poorly organized for successful dairying—one man here and another there going in for the venture and the rest staying out. From this way of working a dairy district, very little profit or pleasure can come, and instead of blaming their administration, everybody blames everybody else, and there is a "bust-up" of the combination. We can and must do better than this. In some cases we are doing better already, but it is folly to paint everything *coulour de rose* here. Just now I think that well managed home dairying is a big thing in the right hands.

I have lying beside me, as I write, the year's record of a small private dairy, of Shorthorn and Ayrshire grades, run by a farmer not a dozen miles from Winnipeg, who sold his butter by private trade, direct to families in the city. He does not pretend to make something out of nothing. He fed well, and cared properly; handled his milk tastefully; and sold in the very best market. From a note carefully made of every cow's yield for one day in the week, I find two cows, 6 and 9 years old, with 8,600 lbs. milk each; three cows with average of 7,100 lbs.; and a heifer with 6,000 lbs. to her credit. The butter made from this milk he sold at 20c. in mid-summer; at 25c. in September and October; and at 30c. for six winter months. This I think a proof that winter dairying is possible, and very profitable here. Twelve out of eighteen cows were in milk in the dead of winter, and I have another record for a month of an Ayrshire cow, that in January last made over 900 lbs. milk, and paid her way very well at that figure.

The innocents who know just how the shoe pinches them here, and fly off as far west as they can get for salt water, to better themselves, keep always on the move—some going out, some coming back, with a very pitiful tale of their experiences. Sick, friendless, with no prospect of employment, they wander round till their friends contrive to bring them back here, or to the North-western States, from which they came by way of Winnipeg. It is not because I am a Manitoban, that I counsel emigrants to the West coast to look well before they take such a very long leap. I invite intending emigrants from Ontario to take an excursion ticket here in July. If the country don't seem to suit you after a week's ride through it, by all means stay at home, or try elsewhere.

An interesting experiment is now being tried by General Superintendent Whyte of the C. P. R. Blue grass is found to grow greenest in the fall, just when all other grasses are dry and ready to blaze from the slightest spark. Mr. Whyte has distributed over 2,500 lbs. of blue grass seed, to be sown by farmers on their own land alongside the track, so as to form a green fire-guard, in which the sparks from passing engines will not kindle. As permanent pasture is a great desideratum here, this may prove of great value to the country, for once taken hold, blue grass will spread everywhere. The only trouble is that owing to the softness of the seed, it is very difficult to keep it from getting more or less musty in store, by which much of its vitality is lost. It is certain that blue grass has covered great areas further south, and is doing the same here, wherever it has got a foothold.

### Bright Prospects for Nova Scotia.

EDITOR CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL.

Your readers are all interested in each other's condition and circumstances, and I have no doubt that your friends in the West are as desirous of hearing, once in a while, from us in the East, as we in the East look forward to similar interchanges from them. Never have we had such an early spring here, and such balmy weather at this time of the year; we are at least a month earlier than usual, with finer growing weather than I have seen sometimes in the middle of June, and then the ground is in such good condition. In fact, never had the farmer such cause to rejoice at the prospects of so promising a season. Active farmers are rapidly getting their seed in the ground, and are encouraged greatly by the continued fine weather. Merchants are also busy opening out new goods, and anticipate a big season's trade, if one may judge by the size of the importations. Not only are the prospects unusually encouraging for the farmer and merchant, but in our factories also a bright activity prevails. In the steel and forge works extra help had to be taken on, both on the day and night shifts, in order to make satisfactory progress with the work on hand. In the smaller factories we hear the same story of plenty work to do. And then again we expect our "iron mines" to be opened up this summer. Unless some very big lies are floating in the air, a company, composed of Americans and Nova Scotians, have already located a line, and according to report, will immediately proceed to build a railway from the iron ore deposits to connect with existing lines of railway. The opening up of our iron mines is a matter that has been "talked about" for a number of years, but now it looks like if the talking has all been done, and the work actually begun.

Each year as it passes marks an advancement or retrogradation in every country in the world. "If this is so, and men say truly," we can much more readily assert the fact that in every kind of business, if one will only take the trouble to look into it, a perceptible movement is going on, which will have a tendency to either make or break that particular business in the end. It is a matter of fact, and cannot be disputed, that changes are constantly taking place in the ways and forms of doing business, and it behooves every one, no matter what business he is engaged in, to be watchful and ready to take advantage of any improvements that will present themselves. Take the farm for instance. A farmer who is active, energetic