

Q. Have you noticed the flowers there? What kinds are found there? Are they spring flowers? A. I am not very much of a botanist. I see the very earliest is something like a wild crocus.

Q. Have you the anemone? Do you know it at all? A. I suppose I know it when I see it, but I am not very well up in botany.

Q. At what season does winter fairly set in and put a stop to farming operation? A. Last year we were able to plough until the 10th of November.

Q. Does the frost ever go out of the ground? A. Oh, yes.

Q. Is frost not found at all times a certain distance below the surface? A. No. I believe that away north, towards the Yukon—I have been told since I started from Prince Albert this time—that the frost does not go out of the ground altogether at any time; that it is covered with a thick coating of moss which prevents it from thawing out.

Q. I am told that in the Saskatchewan district, some three or four feet under the surface of the ground the frost never leaves, and the effect has been beneficial, because the heat of summer draws the moisture up? A. It is not the case in our district. We have vegetables, which grow very deep, such as parsnips, which grow three feet down into the soil.

Q. How deep does the frost enter the ground in the winter? A. I am not sure that I can exactly say as to that, because I have never seen it dug into in the winter; but it is all out of the ground about the time that we begin to fence. We cannot drive pickets if there was any frost in the ground. The fences there are made with pickets and rails—zig-zag fences—and we must drive the pickets in 15 to 18 inches, and if there is any frost in the ground we could not drive them. We fence after the grain is half a foot high.

Q. What kind of water have you there? A. We have good water all over the district.

Q. How deep do you require to dig your wells to get pure spring water? A. I have a well myself which is only 8 feet deep, and a neighbor of mine has one 22 feet deep.

Q. You reach the gravel then at eight feet? A. No, it is a kind of white sand where the water comes. We can scarcely touch gravel at all except down on the flat beside the river.

*By Honorable Mr. Alexander :*

Q. Has the potato crop round Prince Albert been a success generally? A. Yes, every year.

*By Honorable Mr. McClelan :*

Q. You speak of no disease being known there? A. There is none.

*By the Chairman :*

Q. No potato bug? A. No, none at all.

*By Honorable Mr. Gowan :*

Q. Has the farmer there no enemy at all? A. Yes, the early frost in the fall.

*By Honorable Mr. Alexander :*

Q. When does the early frost come? A. The year I went out there, in 1883, it came on the 24th August. Since then I have observed it every year, and the earliest that I have found it has been the 17th August, and the latest the 1st of September.

Q. What is the yield of the potato crop per acre? A. I think it is quite safe to call it 350 bushels.

Q. And turnips? A. Double that—that is Swedes. I got first prize for Swedes at the local fair this year.

Q. Do you grow carrots? A. Yes, I grow all kinds of carrots.

Q. What kind of carrots do you find succeed there—the red or the white? A. I have grown them both, and they grow very well. All kinds of root crops grow very well with us.

*By Honorable Mr. Gowan :*

Q. Have you grown celery? A. I have not grown it in the district, but it is grown. I have grown cabbage, beets, turnips, onions, parsnips, pumpkins and melons.