

what the law is, conflicting constructions of the same by different officials, and the apparently arbitrary exercise of discretionary authority.

“ We have the honour to be, Sir,

“ Yours &c.,

(Signed) “ ALEXANDER FLEMING,

do “ CLIFFORD SIFTON,

“ For the Manitoba and North-West Farmers' Union.

“ To A. M. BURGESS, Esq., Deputy Minister of the Interior.”

In handing me the memorandum, Dr. Fleming took occasion to say that it must not conflict with any action that might subsequently be taken by the executive of the Farmers' Union. This I took to mean that the memorandum had not been submitted to or authorized by the executive, and that Messrs. Fleming and Sifton were individually responsible for its contents. This Dr. Fleming admitted to be a correct interpretation. There was, of course, no special object in receiving representations of this description from two professional gentlemen living in Brandon and following agriculture as a sort of secondary pursuit. Indeed, I supposed, until the last moment, that I was being presented with the authorized views of the Union; but, as my instructions from you before leaving required me to obtain all possible information respecting the working of the land laws, I was quite ready to receive it from any and every source. I need not here record the particulars of what occurred at the interview, which took place in the presence of the Mayor and leading citizens of Brandon, and was reported in the press of the Province at the time. I may simply state that I could obtain from Dr. Fleming and Mr. Sifton no account of a single specific case to which the remarks contained in their memorandum would apply; and as to the vague allegations of suspicion, discontent and want of confidence in the minds of the people, I found, on the contrary, that all with whom I met (although many of them complained bitterly of their misfortunes during the previous season, with which the land law or the manner of its administration had nothing whatever to do) were quite satisfied with that law in its existing form, and full of hope and confidence at the prospect of an abundant harvest which has since been so happily realized.

MIXED FARMING—CARE OF IMPLIMENTS.

The partial failure of the crop last year was, undoubtedly, a very great calamity, and was the principal cause, combined with the exaggerations indulged in at some public meetings in the Province, and by a number of organs of public opinion in Manitoba and elsewhere in Canada, of reducing very materially the settlement made upon public lands this season. But the people have learned some valuable lessons from their misfortune, one of which is that, however profitable the growing of wheat may be in a country so well adapted as the North-West for the production, at very small cost, of enormous crops, it is better that the bulk of the population should not be entirely dependent upon that one industry. What makes exclusive wheat growing very enticing to a certain class of settlers is, that it leaves at their disposal a considerable portion of the year, during which they may give their attention to other pursuits. But it is with farming as it is with every other calling in life, to be successful, a man must, as a rule, give to it his whole time and energy. Except in cases like the Bell and other similar large farms, where the raising of grain is made a specialty, and not only is the land selected for that purpose, but the most improved methods are resorted to, and the best procurable machinery obtained, I am convinced that mixed farming would, in the end, prove the most profitable to the settler, and most advantageous to the country. The recurrence of the disaster of last year would in this way be avoided, and a homestead would become much more the actual home of the farmer than it is at present; thus promoting the *bonâ fide* settlement of the land,