

done this season, and the general outlook is indicative of prosperity. Mr. Archibald Nichol, of 9-11-17, was the first settler here, arriving some thirteen years ago. He is still a resident of the place, and, with his wife, children, and grandchildren, thinks Douglas the finest place in Manitoba. Village lots are still to be had at prices away down, and excellent farm lands in the adjoining districts at four dollars an acre and upwards. The C. P. R. have still on their books some eleven quarter sections to dispose of, and there are other lands at very reasonable prices. Douglas requires a grist mill, and few better investments could be made than a grist mill at this point. The writer called on Alex. T. Thompson, 13-12-17, and was pleased to find all the modern conveniences, in the way of out-buildings, such as root houses, granaries, stables, and a farm house equal to most city houses for comfort and convenience. Mr. Thompson has, this season, two hundred and fifty acres in crop. Douglas has a J. P. in the person of R. H. Swallow, and some of the advantages arising from such an official are no cases, no fines, no jails. Among the pioneers of the place are the Postmaster, Mr. Thomas E. Greenwood, the owner of one of the elevators, as previously stated, which he uses largely himself, being engaged in buying and selling grain. Mr. Colquhoun, the proprietor of the celebrated stallion, Charming Charlie, is also an old inhabitant, farms three hundred and twenty acres, has a feed and sale stable and ships horses largely from Ontario. Messrs. Baker & Leeson have been in business here three years. They keep a large stock of boots, shoes, clothing, dry goods, groceries, hardware, etc. They are also largely engaged in farming. Mr. J. B. Hetherington, contractor, has been two years in the place, does a good business, and, from all reports, has a good hold upon the people of the town. John Carswell does a good, steady and constantly increasing business in groceries, keeps a good stock, and evidently sells at reasonable prices. Mr. W. J. Twiss, one of the village blacksmiths, is an energetic young man and has succeeded in building up a good business in a short space of time. Milne & Beresfield are largely engaged in grain. Their elevator is of 35,000 bushel capacity and they are counting on doing a large business this year. Levi Manley, the harness man, like his neighbors, seems to be doing a good business. He pays close attention to business, gives good value for the money, and his future prosperity seems assured. Dixon & Sharpe are handling implements, furniture, flour and feed. They are pushing young fellows, full of energy and business tact. The grass does not grow under their feet. Their standing in Douglas is good. The land around Douglas is of excellent quality, and prices very low considering the location. Those who are prospecting for land will do well to stop off and take a look around before locating permanently elsewhere.

Railway Lands in Manitoba and the Northwest.

The C. P. R. have over a million acres of land for sale in the best settled parts of Manitoba. On the main line, in the vicinity of such points as Austin, Carberry, Brandon, Griswold and Oak Lake; on the southwestern branch, near the thriving towns of Cypress River, Glenboro and Methven; on the Souris branch, at Plum Creek, Hartney and Napinka; on the Hudson's Bay R. R., surrounding Shoal Lake; on the M. N. W. R. R., in the neighborhood of Neepawa, Minnedosa and Rapid City, and on the North West Central near Beulah, and in the Oak River settlement. This company also controls the lands of the Manitoba & S. W. Col. R. R. These are looked on as being the most desirable lands remaining in the province. Choice sections can be obtained along the Pembina Mountain branch, close to the market towns

of Killarney, Boissevain, Deloraine and Melita. The above mentioned lands are held at an average price of \$4 per acre, and are sold on the ten years' credit plan, the terms being made so easy that the farmer can pay for his land, outside of the first instalment, from the crop it produces. By the extension of the last mentioned line from Deloraine, and the Souris branch from Melita, the lands west of the Souris and along the antler rivers are brought into market. These will be valuable lands for the farmer to secure, on account of their lying close to inexhaustible coal fields. It is expected that the railway will be constructed in time for the coal company to supply the whole of Manitoba during the coming winter with cheap coal. It is calculated to sell coal in Manitoba at \$4 a ton. In the districts of Assiniboia and Alberta the company still own a vast area of selected lands in the railway belt, no part of which lies further than twenty-four miles from the main line. These lands are sold at an average of \$3.50 an acre. The lands in the vicinity of Maple Creek and Medicine Hat, in what is commonly called the Cypress Hills country, possess a special value, owing to the cheapness with which horses, cattle and sheep can be raised on them. This section is now considered by experts as being the most desirable for stock purposes of any portion of the company's landed estate. Recently the Government made over to the railway company seven million acres of land in the lovely park country of the Saskatchewan Valley. This great tract of arable land, estimated to contain the largest acreage of uniformly good land on the American continent, is now being rapidly developed, and is the section of country to which the great mass of the new settlers are turning their attention. It is served on the east by a line of railway leading from Regina to Prince Albert, and is being pierced on the west by a railway now in construction from Calgary to Edmonton. Owing to the south and north Saskatchewan being navigable, the intervening portion lying between these railways is made accessible to settlement. The chance of obtaining free grant lands of the very highest grade in close proximity to railway stations has not been offered since the days of constructing the main line. Homesteads picked up at points on the C. P. R. presenting like conditions to those prevailing on the lines of railway running into the park lands of the Saskatchewan can be readily sold to-day at from \$15 to \$20 an acre. The company's lands will be sold at an average of \$3 an acre.

Farmers arriving in Winnipeg and desiring to see the company's lands, can obtain at the land offices of the company round trip land exploring ticket, the full cost of which is refunded to the holder if he settles on free grant land, or buys railway land from the company, within thirty days of date of ticket. The railway company have recently issued a set of valuable maps and pamphlets, giving the latest and most reliable information concerning the properties in which the company are interested. Innumerable letters from farmers testifying to the worth of the country are inserted. These pamphlets are supplied free to all applicants, and should be read by every farmer who takes an interest in the Northwest. The pamphlets are intitled "Farming and Ranching in the Northwest," "The Northwest Farmer," "The Scotch Farmer," and "One Hundred Farmers Testify."

The Farm.

Advantages of a Selection and Buying Good Seed Grains.

BY JOHN S. PEARCE.

The majority of farmers do not pay the attention they should to the changing of seed grains, selection of seeds, nor to the purchase of new and improved varieties. The loss to themselves and to the country from this cause alone is immense. Indeed I question if it is not much greater than the annual loss to the country through the miserably poor butter that is made throughout the country and that we hear so much about.

There is a large class of farmers throughout the country whose whole aim and ambition is to get in a large acreage of crop every year, losing sight of the importance of increasing the yield per acre through better cultivation and a selection and purchase of new seeds. I venture the assertion that if this class of farmers would only exhaust their surplus energy that they now expend on getting in a big acreage of crop—if they would direct this anxiety and energy towards an increase in the yield per acre, and put in one-third to one-half less acres, they would be a great deal better off at the end of five years.

Good and thorough cultivation must go hand in hand with new and improved varieties of seed grains. It is no use buying new and improved seeds and sowing them on an old worn-out and badly cultivated field or farm, any more than putting a high, well-bred animal of any kind in the hands of a poor and indifferent feeder and stockman, or one who does not understand the care and handling of stock. Both the seeds and the stock would soon be useless under such treatment. This is, to a large extent, the cause of the failure of many who try both new seeds and high bred stock. Both have been improved and brought up to what they are by selection, hybridizing or breeding and careful attention, and high cultivation or feeding and handling. Another trouble with a large class of farmers is that they are too penurious about buying good and expensive seeds, and stand in their own light to their own injury by so doing. They seem to begrudge the money for such seeds, forgetting what it costs to bring out such new varieties. And just here I want to point out, and I wish my readers to take to heart and bear in mind that good seeds cannot always be judged by size, weight or color, though these requirements are necessary to a handsome sample. A good seed is one that will produce a healthy, typical plant, and to do this must have been produced by just such a plant. That "like produces like" and "blood will tell," is quite as true and applicable in plant life as with animals. Good seeds cannot be sold cheaply, as the grower has to give them patient and expensive labor, and probably years of valuable time. To produce this healthy, typical plant, he has to keep the strains uniform and true to name with one concentrated end in view, namely, that of endeavoring to place it on a still higher plane of purity, vigor and perfection. These qualities in seeds are only produced by specialists who have concentrated their time and energy in persistent looking after and studying the growth, habits, etc., of the plants and seeds under test and improvement by them. Though the cost of these may be many times greater than that of ordinary seeds, yet the