

LONDON.—FARMING IN CANADA WEST.

We find the following account of London and farming in Canada West in a late number of *Moore's Rural New Yorker*, a spirited agricultural and family newspaper, published in Rochester, New York. The opinions expressed will no doubt be read with interest by many in Canada.

This London of the New World is the county town of Middlesex County, C. W., and contains a population of 10,000—English, Scotch and Irish, with a strong sprinkling of the "universal Yankees." Its streets are wide and regular and cross each other at right angles, which, as the place is on a broad table land and very level, appear very finely. The public buildings are the Court House, Royal Exchange, Covent Garden Market, City Hall, and some excellent Hotels, the leading one—Robinson Hall—being kept by a Down Easter. Few cities can boast of a better City Hall or Market. The town has recently been lighted with gas, and only needs a supply of good water to render it a first class inland city. Mercantile business is extensive, supplying a large extent of country, back to Lake Huron. Previous to the completion of the Great Western Railway the whole commercial business was done at Port Stanley, on Lake Erie, distant about twenty-five miles. The building of the railway has been of much benefit, inducing increased trade, additional and better buildings, and enabling the traffic to be continued through the winter months, heretofore impossible. The enterprising citizens have in course of construction the London and Port Stanley Railway, which will enable them to reach the Lake to some twenty-five miles, and bring them in cheap communication with Buffalo, with which city they now trade largely.

It is not the city alone that deserves mention, for around it, on every side is spread out a farming country of great beauty and fertility. Wheat, both winter and spring, is grown to a large extent and with good success. Some of the samples are as fine as the best Genesee. Farmers here are not particular in growing only one kind of wheat in the field, but mix the white and red together, to their own disadvantage when seeking a market. Good winter wheat commands \$1,50, spring \$1,25, oats 37½ cents. Very little corn is seen, from which it may be inferred that little is grown except for home use. Here, as well as elsewhere in Canada, attention is given

to breeding good cattle and sheep, and fine horses. The beef in market for the holidays is superior, and the fat mutton can hardly be excelled. The sheep most in favor are the middle-wooled, South Downs and Cotswolds, and their crosses, with the natives. Agriculture is still in its infancy, and many of the farms at the north are new and only partially cleared. The land toward Lake Huron is represented as very fertile and rapidly settling. Toward Lake Erie it has been long tilled and is of a very superior character.

In some respects the Canadian farmers are in advance of those in the States. Having come from England, where high and systematic farming has received more attention, they the more readily adopt improvements which promise good results. They are large growers of the different root crops, and find them of great value. They have plows modelled after the Scotch, with which they plow deep and well far better as a general thing, than New York plowmen. Sub-soil plowing is beginning to attract attention and will be found very beneficial, as much of the soil is stiffly tinctured with clay. Draining is also receiving much thought. A company has been incorporated for the purpose of making and putting down drains, upon a large scale. It is proposed to do this upon a farm, and allow the proprietor to pay for the improvements made in annual instalments, with interest, something in the manner of a mortgage or lease upon the property. The head-quarters of the company are at Hamilton, and it embraces many of the influential and wealthy men of Canada West.

Horticulture receives very general encouragement, and few are the farmers of note who cannot boast of good fruit, and, indeed, choice and rare flowers and shrubs. Nor are these things neglected among the small farmers. Many a one, on his humble farm far away toward Lake Huron, is familiar with the best apples, pears, plums, and other fruit, and not a few have obtained the best trees of the celebrated nurseries of Monroe county. From Buffalo, too, they have drawn a liberal supply. Few countries of equal extent give better promise of the future than Canada West. It is dotted over with flourishing villages, and is fast being interlaced by well constructed railways, which, when completed, will greatly enhance the measure of her prosperity. We purpose to know her better, and say more of her different parts of the province, at a future time.