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The winter is a prolonged one lasting from November to April, during the whole of this time snow covers the ground, although the average snow depth does not exceed eighteen inches. The long winter is succeeded by a glorious Spring, Summer and "Fall."

Politically, Brandon is the centre of the county of the same name. Originally this embraced thirty-six townships of the Province of Manitoba, being bounded by ranges 17 and 22 inclusive on the east and west and by the Second Correction Line and south Base Line on the north and south. This district includes the important settlements of Carberry, Chater, Cypress, Petrel, Auburn, Elton, Oak River, Lothair, Griswold, Oak Lake, Virden, Brandon Hills, Plumb Creek, Roundthwaite and Millford. The County of Brandon returns one member to the Provincial Parliament assembling at Winnipeg. J. E. Woodworth, Esq., is the present member.

SOIL, AGRICULTURE, CROPS, &c.

Brandon is situated in a purely agricultural district. The valleys of the Assiniboine, Souris, Little Saskatchewan and Oak Rivers are included amongst the richest alluvial deposits of the North-west. Here the prairie rose and silver willow, the indices of good corn land, abundantly grow, while the lower levels of the rolling prairie or the margins of river, creek or slough are the habitat of a wealth of luxuriant grasses which cannot be dispensed with. The soil immediately near to Brandon is somewhat light in character, but the more desirable soils, the black loam, the clay loam, and the sandy loam are to be found in large proportion throughout the district. The despised gravel bed upon which part of Brandon is built has been found to be of the greatest service in the grading of the avenues and streets of the city. Winnipeg has felt the want of such a gravel bed, and so will Regina. The country round Brandon is devoted to corn and stock raising, principally the former. At present a large proportion of the country is but newly settled. The Brandon Hills settlement is one of the oldest, the pioneer settler, Mr. Roddick, taking up land there in 1879. An idea of the grain producing capabilities of the district culled from widely divergent points can be gathered from the following figures:—

Average number of bushels per acre.

	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
Brandon	25	30	50
Brandon Hills	30	—	60
Carberry	30	40	50
Elton	30	50	—
Griswold	35	40	65
Millford	28	40	65

These rates have been extracted from the returns of last harvest. Root crops have been generally exceedingly good, while some extraordinary specimens of both roots and grains have been produced in a few instances. It may not be out of place here to extract from a report of the Kingston exhibit an eulogium in which the Brandon district has a right to share. "There are 321 exhibits contributed by all parts of the Province. There is a large display of grain in the straw, among the samples being some oats 5 feet 9 inches in height. The wheat shown is very fine, the grain being solid and plump. There are samples of White Fife, Russian, Scotch, Red Fife, Champion, Norway, Lost Nation and Red Odessa. The country is celebrated for Red Fife wheat. The oats are really beautiful samples. Among them might be mentioned Odessa gold oats and white potato oats. In roots and vegetables there is a large and miscellaneous collection. Notwithstanding that the crop was prematurely gathered, there are some mammoth early rose and white Lapland potatoes, and some large squashes, pumpkins, beets and turnips."