

We drove out to see the hay-making arrangements, which were being carried on whilst they were waiting for the corn to be ready for harvesting, and here we found from 1,200 to 1,400 tons of hay being secured. Here, again, the work was simplicity itself, for the natural grass of certain parts of the unbroken prairie having been cut by mowing machines, was allowed to lie on the surface—on the average four or five hours—and then the horse rakes gathered it for the men to load on the waggons and send to the stack. In making the hay-ricks, care was taken to shape the top into a roof-like form, which would throw off the rain without the expense of thatching. A small loss is occasionally made consequent upon defective protection, but that loss is unworthy of consideration in comparison with the large expenditure for thatching, which is avoided.

In the regulation of this great undertaking, there is a rigid discipline observed. An order being given, it must be performed, for its neglect entails dismissal. Without this—almost military—regularity, confusion would soon reign, and good management would be an impossibility. Major Bell, from day to day, inspects the operations going on upon the farm, and is now aided by one general foreman and four foremen of sections. At eight o'clock in the evening all gather to the telephone, which extends from Major Bell's residence into each of the four sections of the farm. The orders are then given to each sectional foreman, in the hearing of the others. Any doubt is at once cleared up, and all retire to rest subsequently with full instructions for the morrow. No change is permitted without authority from headquarters, which, by the aid of the telephone, is always obtainable, in case of necessity, by night or day.

The colonization scheme, now being carried out by Major Bell, possesses one marked peculiarity, for the area of the farm represents 64,000 acres, or 100 square miles, the whole of which lies within its own continuous boundary. There is no intervening land, except one square mile given up for the town of Indian Head, and for the line of railway which passes through the centre of the farm. In May, 1882, Major Bell had free scope for the selection of this unbroken block of land. It was then 200 miles from the nearest railway station. It is a curious fact, illustrative of the rapid development of the Canadian North-West, that his men and teams, with their various requirements for establishing themselves on the selected lands, took five weeks in journeying from Brandon to their destinations; and yet within one month of their arrival there, Major Bell went back to Winnipeg in a sleeping car on the Canadian Pacific Railway.

THE QU'APPELLE VALLEY LANDS.

After completing my inspection of the Bell Farm, I proceeded to see the lands which are associated with the lovely valley of the Qu'Appelle River. The name as no doubt been given to it in consequence of its frequent "echoes," and the reply, qu'appelle (who calls?), suggests the natural results of many an amusing incident. On the first day I drove through the fertile lands east and north of the Bell Farm, reaching Fort Qu'Appelle in the evening. We first passed through the Pheasant Plains, which are remarkable for their productive powers and great agricultural capabilities. I visited here some skilful and enterprising farmers who had come up from Ontario, and who had secured a well deserved success. Messrs. McKee and Williamson had selected a fine tract of land, well adapted for mixed farming, and here [on August 28th, 1884,] the harvest was in full swing, and the average yield of wheat was not less than 25 bushels per acre, whilst on 300 acres there were fully 40 bushels per acre. This larger produce was in some measure due to the system of tillage. Major Bell considers it most economical to break the prairie thin—say three inches—and leave the turf thus ploughed up exposed to the winter frost, so that it can be shaken to pieces in the spring by the agitating harrow going before the seeder. On the other hand the more usual practice is to "break" the land as already stated, and after two or three months, when the turf appears to be dead and ready to crumble, the turf and two or three inches of soil are "back-set" by the plough and allowed to lie for the winter. Major Bell appears to admit the fact of this better cultivation being often preferable, but claims that it does