

which sheep preferred. Sheep could find for themselves under the snow better than cattle, and would not need shelter so much, the climate being so dry that their fleeces would keep dry all winter and protect them from the cold.

"As regarded the Bell farm, it was a bold and a praiseworthy experiment, its object being to demonstrate the capabilities of the prairie soil for the growth of various crops, wheat, oats, flax and garden vegetables. As far as that was concerned, the farm was a success, though whether it was a fiscal success he could not tell. It had all the look of a paying place. As an experiment, the Bell farm was all very well, but what was wanted in the North-West was not huge farms, but a lot of small ones."

Perhaps it is as well to point out that the remarks in the first part of this extract have reference to the tract of country lying between Moose Jaw and the Rocky Mountains respecting which there had been a question as to adaptability for agriculture. None of what he calls the drawbacks of the plains as regards the water supply would apply to the more eastern portion of the Territory, and even as regards this, there is the fact of the state of things described by Professor Macoun, namely—that when these plains which appear on their surface hard and dry, are cultivated, they absorb the rain fall and retain the moisture instead of its being rapidly evaporated from the hard surface. These facts have been demonstrated by the experimental farms of the Canadian Pacific Railway, much to the surprise of those persons who were disposed to doubt the statements of Mr. Macoun. It is to be remarked, however, that, for ordinary settlers from the United Kingdom or else where, there are vast areas east of these lands which it would probably be advisable to settle first. Time and experience will soon solve all other questions.

Professor Fream, the Professor of Botany at Downton College, also travelled with Professor Sheldon, this being his first visit to the great prairies of the North West. Giving his general impressions, he said that "the agricultural capacity of the North West was something wonderful."

He went on to say "there was a power of good wheat growing land, and also good garden mould of a surprising depth. He had looked at one of the experimental farms at Gleichen and seen a lot of Black Tartarean wheat that presented a fine appearance. It looked particularly clean in the straw, much more so than in England, in spite of the wet season. Had seen useful forage plants growing wild on the prairie, but thought that the introduction of various species of cultivated grass would be a step in the right direction. And side by side with the settlement of the land belts of trees should be planted to keep moisture in the soil, to afford shade and break the force of the wind, as well as to relieve the monotony of the prairie."

And further. "The great thing that was required for the North-West was, in his opinion, a good thrifty people with a little capital. The proper sort of immigrant was the one who could command a little capital. The knowledge of farming required was very slight indeed at present. The settler should keep a few head of cattle, if only for milk and butter; poultry might be raised with little trouble, and pigs. The drawback was that the farmer was so taken up with his wheat crops that he neglected those little details that would make his life a much more pleasant one. Flower gardens would also add much to the beauty of the farms."

He continued "that he had many talks with the settlers and found them all pleased with their prospects. There were no expressions of regret made use of, and all expected to pull through the winter very well. He saw some excellent land around Brandon, and thought that as the country became populated such places as Rat Portage and Medicine Hat would become great resorts on account of their natural beauty and scenery."

Professor MacAdam of Edinburgh, the eminent chemist, who had before made an analysis of the prairie soil, expressed himself in the following very decided terms:—

"He had great faith in Canadian soil, because he had examined it carefully. What ever opinions he had previously formed about the crop-yielding power of the land in

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