

twenty-three feet deep. Wood for fuel can be procured at moderate rates, and extensive arrangements are in process for bringing coal at reasonable prices within easy reach. Manitoba and the western countries abound in good coal, one seam of which alone is two hundred miles broad. The tendency all over is to prosecute mixed farming as more profitable and reliable. The farmers rear horses, cattle, sheep, pigs, and poultry. Thus, when prices are low for one kind of stock or grain, they may be high in others. Mixed farming is also a protection against such disasters as were brought about by an over-production of grain. Such is the general character of the rolling country extending between Winnipeg and the Rocky Mountains, the area of which is over two hundred million acres, suitable more or less for agricultural purposes. It may be here stated that at the Chicago Exhibition Canada took all the leading prizes for dairy products, especially for cheese, and much more than her share for cattle, horses, and sheep of all kinds. This was a great surprise and disappointment to all, and especially to Americans, who have no love for the Dominion. But Canada has been prominently brought to the front by the exhibition awards, and is more than likely in the future to fully maintain her own in all the leading markets of the world. As to the general character of the climate, it is warm in summer and cold in winter. The seasons are subject to the climatic changes of all countries. The atmosphere is dry, clear, bright, free from damp, and extremely bracing. It is considered the healthiest climate in the world, pleasant to live in, free from malaria and other diseases, and especially so from rheumatics and chest complaints. Native horses and cattle thrive out even in winter. In spring rainfalls are frequent, but the summer and autumn are comparatively dry. There are, however, occasional frosts in August and September, and these the farmers have good reason to fear and dread. The intense frost and snow in the winter are almost necessary to secure a good crop in autumn. The ploughing, which is generally done towards the end of harvest, is left so for the winter, when the soil is broken and pulverised by the frost, without which the yield would not be nearly so heavy. The frost is thus of incalculable value to the success of the farmer.