

perous homes and laid out orchards and named it for the old home because of the landscape likeness. Its soil is rich and fertile, its lands rolling circles of low hills, valleys and streams. Slopes affording natural protection for orchards abound everywhere. The people are interested in lumber and have neglected farming. The time is at hand for a change, and the change is imminent. Apple trees are growing everywhere and bearing, but otherwise untouched by the hand of man or the share of the plough.

Fruit growing, as conducted in the Annapolis Valley, means drainage, ploughing, harrowing, fertilizing, seeding, pruning, spraying and picking the fruit by hand every year. Our people have the easy contentment of men of action. They have been studying the distant markets, and export opportunities of the greater Maritime Canada. I have

no hesitation in forecasting the future if the Government will lengthen and strengthen a railway system, and if the people on the farms will show desirable and laudable enterprise, at once, in developing these great natural resources; farm values will at once increase, and double, and must assure to the country a substantial annuity for all years to come. The opportunity is absolutely here.

The texture of all soils is quickly changed by tile or stone drainage. Climatic influence is more potent than soils. The economic use of fog in warming the atmosphere and sweetening the air will in time be more generally accepted.

The waters of the Bay of Fundy are several degrees colder in summer than those of the Northumberland Straits. Prince Edward Island is farther north than any points considered in this paper, but

is completely encircled by two tidal currents from the Atlantic which meet at Cape Tormentine. These two ocean currents, one of which is comparatively warm, ensure the direct probability of the island's eventually becoming a great fruit-growing country, for fogs and tidal waves are paramount to all other influences combined in this matter of raising fruit. Hence these provinces must forever stand unsurpassed in producing what is best and choicest in flavour. The apples in the Valley of Hillsboro are good size, excellent in colouring, texture and aroma and will improve by culture and training.

The Maritime Provinces will continue to grow apples for the English palate as a delightful food, for our apples have the character and quality so well defined by the mother land through a thousand years of the growth of national taste.

# APPLE BLOSSOMS AND CLOVER

## A Reply to Professor Robertson's Strictures on the West

By WILBERT McINTYRE, M.P.

IN an address delivered before the Agricultural Committee of the House of Commons on May 27th, Professor Robertson, Principal of MacDonald College, made use of the following remarks:—"There is a good deal of talk about the development of the West; I do not see any evidence of development, nor do I hear of any. We have occupied the West, no doubt about that, but occupation of a country is not the development of it in regard to resources, population or social organisations.

"We have in Canada, in our natural resources of agriculture, three vast areas; we have coming eastward from the Atlantic, practically a thousand miles in round figures, where you may have in the summer, as you have in other countries, apple blossoms and clover, and these are two conditions of rural life that make human life and human civilisation capable of permanence at their last. I do not know any other two conditions that define the natural resources of a place with equal simplicity and aptness as do apple blossoms and clover. As soon as you leave that area you enter an area of all kinds of risks for stability, prosperity and civilisation."

Such remarks from a man of less prominence, ability and education than Professor Robertson would give rise to no comment, but one is simply astounded at the statement coming from such a source. Professor Robertson undoubtedly is one of our greatest authorities on agricultural subjects, but, if he expressed his thoughts correctly, he is not an authority on the development of the West.

Last year we produced in the West one hundred million bushels of grain, where half a century ago it was thought that the country was practically uninhabitable—the Great Lone Land. The grain men with elevators at all points in the West, and a careful estimate on experience of past years, give the prospective yield of the coming season at one hundred and twenty-five million bushels of wheat, fifty million bushels of oats, and twenty-five million bushels of barley. This is the result of the cultivation of a one time fertile wilderness, but Professor Robertson says this is not development. Because apple trees and clover blossoms are not grown freely in the West, we have no possibility of permanent development.

The writer was born in a county in the Province of Ontario, where in his boyhood apple growing was pronounced a failure, while to-day it is a fruitful source of revenue to most of the farmers in that county. The possibilities of growing apples has not been thoroughly tested in the West, but certain varieties of apples have been grown in the West in communities scattered from Winnipeg as far west and north as Edmonton. As to the growing of clover, it will never be a profitable occupation so long as an abundance of hay land is lying unoccupied near the settlers.

It seems to me that Professor Robertson has not kept in touch with the development going on in the West. I am sure he will admit that tree planting in a prairie country is development. During the last seven years the Interior Department alone distributed to settlers to beautify their homes over eleven million trees. When you consider that in 1906 only eight hundred thousand people were in that country, it seems as though a fair proportion of the people are "developing" their homes. This, remember, does not take into account the millions of shrubs and fruit trees distributed by the Agricultural Department from Agricultural Farms and Experimental Stations.

Surely, such industry as growing sugar beets, where the fertilisation and cultivation of soil is carried on at its optimum, must be "development." Professor Robertson is probably aware that in Southern Alberta a large sugar beet industry is carried on, affording labour for hundreds of people, on a very small area of land, and conserving the natural resources of the soil in a remarkable way.

It would seem that where farmers cultivate an area for seed grain, fertilising it and eradicating all weeds, and sowing on it the most perfect grain obtainable, that they may preserve pure seed for sowing the following year is a means of "development" more commonly practised West of the Great Lakes than East of the Great Lakes.

Located throughout, at various suitable points in the three prairie provinces, we have Agricultural Farms and Experimental Stations under the direction of the Dominion Government, and managed by efficient instructors and experimenters, and the results of these experiments and advice of the instructors are carefully considered by the various agricultural associations in session, and disseminated thereby to the individual farmers. The work that Professor Robertson is doing at the MacDonald College is being carried on, no doubt, less perfectly by agricultural teachers in the West, and the results of the conservation of nutrition and intensified farming is amply shown at the Agricultural Farms and Experimental Stations.

I might remark that last autumn I visited an Experimental Station in Alberta in operation only two years, and I may say that I visited St. Anne De Belevue on June 13th this year, and it would take twenty years with the same labour and expense annually to make the property on which MacDonald College is situated, produce from virgin state what was produced on the Alberta Experimental Station in its second year.

But Professor Robertson probably did not mean exactly the idea I have given his words, but there can be no doubt that he feels sure there is no development that stands for permanence or conservation of nutrition, and I think I have shown above, that in some ways—and I have not exhausted the methods by any means—we are developing the West. But he also states, we are only playing the game for awhile, but later, we must surely fail.

In this particular I can only quote other authorities to show that the fertility of the soil is not so easily exhausted or as transitory as the Professor states. It would not meet his argument to show that the settler, who at one time, fearing the results of the harvest, lived in a constant state of uncertainty, now sows with the same assurance of reward for his labours, as the eastern farmer. Nor would it meet the Professor's argument to show that farmers have raised successive successful crops for twenty-five years, but the Professor bases his belief on the permanency—on the cultivated flora of the country.

Professor John Macoun, Government Naturalist, in speaking before the Agricultural Committee of the House of Commons on December 18th, 1906, stated that his estimate of the productiveness of a region was based on the wild flora, and that his reports of thirty years ago, still on file in the department, were just now being vindicated by actual production in the West. He also stated that for one thousand miles on his trip, he had holes dug into the subsoil every half-hour during the journey, and the soil thoroughly tested. One can see that

after thirty years of such careful observation by an expert, that such testimony would be valuable.

On page six of the printed report he states in reply to a question as to the methods of farming carried on in the West exhausting the fertility of the soil: "Yes, but I can go further. Let me test my statement now. It is a broad one, but I challenge contradiction to it. The people do not realise yet that we have scarcely any running water in the North-west, and where there is no running water, there is no leaching of the land. *The land in our North-west is practically inexhaustible on that account.* Please let that pass into your mind as absolutely true."

Professor Robertson will doubtless admit that the occupation of dairying is one that will retain the fertility of the soil, and the evidences of natural products suitable for this branch of agriculture must be taken as standing for permanence and not "playing the game."

J. A. Ruddick, Dominion Dairy and Cold Storage Commissioner, speaking before the May Court Club in Ottawa, last February, stated that the apparently more profitable occupation of grain growing had excluded dairying to some considerable extent in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, but of Alberta he remarks as follows: "Proceeding westward into Alberta, we find more favourable conditions, especially in that section of the province lying between Calgary and Edmonton where the progress of dairying industry has kept pace with the settlement of the country. Beginning in 1896, the increase has been steady and substantial with the result that to-day there are forty-five creameries and eight cheese factories in the sunny province of Alberta. *There is every indication that Northern Alberta will become one of the best dairy sections in Canada.*" Is not this an evidence of "development" coupled with "permanence"?

In the quotation from Professor Robertson's speech given above, there is an idea implied, if not expressed, that for the development of humanity in its highest form, there must of necessity be comfort, if not luxury. This does not seem to be according to history. No race of people lived in less luxurious surroundings than the race to which the Professor belongs—the Scotch—and probably no race has to a greater degree "that kind of ability that stands for intelligence, liberty and justice." Luxury and comforts are generally supposed to cause deterioration, while the greater the struggle, the stronger the victor, and it would not be at all surprising if the West—where the battle of the pioneer is somewhat like the battle of the pioneer in Eastern Canada—does produce "the permanent, predominant personality of the people of Canada."

In the report of John Macoun, from which I quoted above, he makes the statement about a portion of the country far north of what is commonly known as the North-west. "But, gentlemen, let me say this to you as a last word. I am trying to create interest in that Northland, and I am speaking on this subject because I am getting to be an old man, and when I am dead, and many of you are dead, the people of Canada will begin to discover that that Northland is to Canada, precisely what Germany was to the Romans. It is a hyperborean climate, and supposedly unfit for mortal beings to live in, and yet to-day Germany is one of the strongest nations in the world. That is going to be the outcome of Canada. We have more than half a continent, and if we can raise first-class wheat and first-class women, certainly we ought to raise first-class men."