

for settlement. In this immense territory there are about 250 million acres of land, a large part of which could be used for farming purposes. Up to the present time less than 10 million acres have been taken up by farmers, and from one to two million are occupied by ranchers.

Characteristics of the Country.

Broad and rolling plains characterize the Territories along their southern boundaries, and a wide belt lying north of the 49th parallel (which forms the boundary line between the United States and Canada) extending from about the 102nd parallel of west longitude to the base of the Rocky Mountains, has a dry climate, caused partly by the hot winds which blow northward from the great American desert. Beyond the spent force of these warm currents of air, beginning from 125 to 175 miles north of the international boundary, immense partly wooded districts are found, watered by streams of various sizes, where the soil is wonderfully rich and fertile, with conditions very favourable for mixed farming, and especially for the raising of cattle and for dairying. This great fertile belt extends from the western shores of Lake Manitoba westward for about 700 miles to the foot hills of the Rocky Mountains, and varies in width (from south to north) from 150 to 250 miles. There the native grasses grow far more luxuriantly than on the open prairies southward, while the belts and clumps of wood, interspersed with stretches of open country, afford favourable conditions for the growing of grain, and give good shelter for stock. Over this whole area the soil is wonderfully uniform in its fertility, and it is doubtful if another similar stretch of country, equal in productiveness, can be found anywhere. Settlement is rapidly progressing in many different parts of this desirable region. The climate in the Territories north of the dry belt is much like that of Manitoba, and is well suited for growing the finest quality of No. 1 hard wheat, with other cereals of high character. The length of the growing season is also much the same, and the spring opens about the same time from the Red River to the Athabaska.