

by trading with the half-breeds and Indians, who had no taste for agriculture but had an unquenchable love for the plains and rivers. The facilities for farming, as may be supposed, were not of the best. The implements (spade and hoe for planting and sowing) were almost as primitive as those which might have been used by the "grand old gardener," but with these by dint of great toil the settlers soon managed to make a livelihood. The reaping was done with the sickle and the cradle. Then the age of machinery came in, and the hoe gave place to the old wooden plough, whose oaken mould-board was pointed with such an iron attachment as Tubal Cain might have made "in the days when earth was young." The sickle and cradle gave way to the first cumbrous reaper, which had to be put in and out of gear by lifting the machine with a fence rail and moving the big wheel into or out of contact with the smaller cogged one. Behind the platform of this reaper a stand was placed for the able-bodied man who "forked off" the grain in sheaves as it fell, and to do this with