

at 3s to 7s a pound, according to time of year; very rarely less than 3s a pound. Meat is cheap, but generally it is very much more like a bit of shoe leather; and the new duty, coming in force on October 1st, 25s on every 100 pounds of fresh fruit and vegetables, will make things go up a bit more. I saw a chest of drawers going for £6 10s, and I am positive you can get the same at any house in Liverpool for 30s to 40s, and this was second-hand. Soling and healing boots, 3s 6d to 10s, I pay myself, and it's done in six weeks at the outside. I speak from experience. Suit of clothes: Liverpool, £3 10s to £4 10s; Johannesburg, £6 10s to £8. Hats, 15s; Liverpool, 8s 6d; washing, 4s a dozen; collars and handkerchiefs, socks, all same price, 4d each. When people talk of young fellows going abroad to such and such a good situation double what they get in Liverpool, they never take into account the prices they have to pay for things they want, and at present the tendency is to reduce wages, and everything else going up. Of course, of course there are one or two who grow rich, but what about the thousands who only exist?"

With a heavy influx of skilled artisans, clerks and book keepers into the Canadian Northwest, many like the *Courier* correspondent would be greatly disappointed. This new and comparatively undeveloped country requires only so many of such settlers, and that the number of skilled artisans has not greatly exceeded the demand is plain, from the fact, that such men get paid \$3 to \$4 per day in Winnipeg and other cities. But with a deluge of skilled labor these prices could not be long maintained. A supply greatly in excess of the demand would here as elsewhere reduce wages of such men below the present fairly remunerative figures.

We have been fortunate enough so far in the Northwest to have no deluge of skilled artisans, although we have had the usual plethora of clerks, book keepers and such like, and serious disappointment, and in some instances something like hardships have been experienced by such men, although many possessed of courage have fought against great difficulties until they became adapted to their changed circumstances, and in time reached comfort, and a few affluence, in some new line of life.

It must be admitted, that in Manitoba and the Territories westward, the chances of success are ten to one in favor of the farmer and the farm laborer. Year by year the scarcity of the latter class is becoming more awkward during haying, harvesting and threshing time, and big wages have been paid during July, August, September and October of the past two years. Just fancy an English farm laborer demanding seven pounds a month and found in everything, and that has been a common figure during the latter part of the last two seasons. It takes so little capital to start farming here, (say £150 to £200) that the industrious, careful farm laborer is usually settled on a farm of his own at the end of two year's work as a laborer. Thus the demand for such is steadily increasing, and the supply disappearing. So much so, that unless there is a heavy immigration of farm laborers into Manitoba during the next few years, agricultural affairs will be seriously hampered in the latter part of each season.

But the Manitoba settler has reason to be thankful and satisfied with his lot, when he looks over the prices of necessaries of life as quoted by this South African correspondent in the *Courier*. In the Canadian Northwest as in all other new countries we have to pay high

for luxuries of some kinds; but for food this is a veritable land of Goshen. The finest cuts of beef, mutton and other meats, such as the European artizan or laborer seldom tastes unless about the Christmas holidays, are sold for seven pence a pound, while less desirable cuts are sold at two pence halfpenny to five pence; butter ranges from eight pence to fourteen pence according to season and quality; eggs range from sixpence to fifteen pence a dozen according to season, while the finest flour in the world is now selling at a penny a pound, and lower grades at less than three farthings. The finest flour never did exceed in late years three halfpence, and usually ranges from a penny to a penny farthing. For two days wages a mechanic can lay in enough potatoes in the fall of the year (say half a ton) to supply himself and family until the next crop comes in, and all other vegetables, such as cabbage, cauliflower, carrots, turnips, parsnips, celery, and such like are correspondingly cheap, at that season of the year. Even fruit is very reasonable, for Winnipeg is the dumping market for that product for the States south, and the Provinces east of it. Thousands of tons of the most delicate southern fruits are sent there on consignment every year, and are sold at very moderate prices. The climate of Manitoba is so dry, and the temperature so much below that of the fruit growing countries south of it that such fruits can be preserved in good condition there, weeks after they would have spoiled in the southern districts. Therefore when a plethora of fruit sets in, ship to Manitoba the surplus is the course followed, and sell it there for what it will bring, thus relieving the original market. This keeps Manitoba a cheap market generally for fruit. In connection with poultry, fish, and other perishable goods of that kind, the same thing is true in the winter. The surplus poultry of Ontario, the salmon, halibut, cod, and other fish of British Columbia and the Atlantic provinces are all rushed to Winnipeg for distribution over the prairie province, where they can be kept in a semi-frozen state for weeks, or even months, without the expense of any refrigerating process, and as there is a big local supply of poultry, and an unlimited supply of lake fish in from Lake Winnipeg, and other lakes coming into competition, the price of the imported goods is naturally rather low. In England, salmon fresh at seven to eight pence a pound is a cheap luxury, but at these figures it can be bought in Winnipeg retail at any time of the year, while in the middle of winter a plucked fowl of four pounds weight can be had for about fifteen to eighteen pence.

It is unnecessary to state that Manitoba, like all other new countries, has its drawbacks and disadvantages, especially to people who have lived only in the cities and towns of Great Britain. But it has no drawbacks in connection with cheap food. The diet of a working man in Winnipeg costs him at least twenty five per cent, less than it would cost him in any English city, if he lived as well there as he did in the Manitoba capita!

#### EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE election of Mr. Isinger, the Haultian candidate to the vacancy in the Northwest As-

sembly, left by the death of Mr. Reaman, has placed the old party again in power and afforded another illustration, for the benefit of the Opposition, of the old saying that "the best laid schemes of men and mice gang aft a-gley."

WESTERN people are unanimously agreed that with his appointment to the portfolio of Minister of the Interior the opportunity of the Hon. T. M. Daly has come. If he meets the wishes of the country in the all important question of immigration he will prove beyond a doubt the wisdom of the choice which placed him in the position he now occupies.

THE excitement raised in Canada by the action of the British Board of Agriculture in forbidding the importation of live Canadian cattle to England has nearly all died out again, and those whose wail was loudest when the edict first came forth are now arguing that the action of the Board will ultimately prove an advantage instead of an injury to Canadian interests.

CANADA was taken by surprise last month when the announcement was made that Premier Abbott had resigned and that Sir John Thompson had been called to form a new cabinet. While everybody knew that Mr. Abbott was in poor health and that he seriously contemplated giving up his office, his resignation was not just at the moment expected, and came as a surprise to many who are usually pretty well posted on political matters.

THE annual meeting of the Presbyterian Synod of Manitoba and the Northwest, which was held at Winnipeg in the latter part of November, attracted a great deal of attention. This church body embraces the Presbyteries of Winnipeg, Rock Lake, Brandon, Minnedosa and Regina, covering the country from Lake Superior to the western boundary of Assiniboia. The principal subjects which came up for discussion related to Home Missions, Manitoba College, and educational matters.

A good deal of attention was given last month to Imperial Federation matters both in Canada and the old country. Mr. G. K. Parkin, one of the strongest advocates of the scheme, has been travelling about the Dominion delivering addresses and enlisting the interest and sympathy of Canadians. In another part of this issue we have a summary of his lecture as it was delivered in Winnipeg. In the old country a special committee of the Imperial Federation League appointed at the suggestion of Lord Salisbury, late Premier Minister of Britain, has been drafting the outline of a plan by which it is thought the requirements of such a federation could be met. The gentlemen who composed this committee are of world wide fame as statesmen and scholars, and brought to bear upon the subject a vast amount of knowledge of Colonial and Imperial affairs, of politics and statescraft. Their report is now before the Council, of the League, and will probably greatly facilitate the understanding of the whole question.