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# THE HANNOVER BELT

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**PROSPEROUS  
WESTERN  
CANADA..**

**THE  
HOME OF NO. 1 HARD  
AND THE  
FUTURE GRANARY OF  
THE WORLD.**

**T**HE Great strides which Western Canada is making and the wonderful richness of the soil is creating considerable excitement not only in Canada but in the United States and Great Britain. The large crops of the past two years with phenomenal yields have enacted a movement towards the west which will not be checked until every available homestead is taken. The past season has seen over 35,000 from the States take up land, and next year, a prominent St. Paul man says, will see 50,000 more. The Edmonton Bulletin one of the "farthest north" newspapers, in a recent article on the northwest as a wide and open field, says:

move to market the returns of the past season before the beginning of the next. Whatever doubt there may have been as to the suitability of the Canadian Northwest for settlement that doubt is set at rest by the successive yields of previous years and by the crowning glory of the past year. It is not to be expected that every season will be the same. There have been bad years in the Northwest and there will be bad years. But as the conditions have become better understood the badness has been minimized, and the good has been increased, while an occasional bumper year such as that last past gives solid assurance as to possibilities that

differences in Agriculture in the various sections. But it is safe to say that in no other equal area of the world is there an equal possibility of the production of wealth from the soil, whether by one branch of agriculture or another.

### The Fertile Belt:

The conditions which render a country suitable for mixed farming are; Abundance of water and fuel, cheap building material, good grass for pasture and hay, a fertile soil, a sufficient rainfall and giving an assured and adequate season of growth. The presence of all these conditions is not absolutely necessary in the case of a purely wheat raising or a purely grazing country. The absence of one or other of them is what makes one region better adapted for wheat than cattle or better for cattle than wheat. But the presence of all is needed to fit a country for mixed farming. All these conditions are found from end to end of the Saskatchewan Valley, and gave to that region many years ago the name of the Fertile Belt of Canada.

### Fuel—Wood Abundant.

In a northern latitude the question of fuel is naturally of very great importance. Although the winter weather may be tempered by the mildness of or comparative

of coal. The country seems to be absolutely underlaid with coal. The Saskatchewan river in its northeasterly course from its source in the Rocky Mountains to its northerly bend at Victoria. A distance of about 300 miles cuts through successive coal beds for the whole distance. At Edmonton three workable seams one below the other, underlie the town and extend for miles up and down the valley in both its banks. These seams are from two to four feet thick, the two upper ones being the thicker. Only the upper seams are worked. In some places up the river the seams are 30ft. in thickness. There is no such lavish supply of coal anywhere else in the known world. The quality of the seams at Edmonton is excellent for household use, but it is not a coking coal, and is not altogether satisfactory for blacksmith use. The fault of the Edmonton coal is that exposure to the weather causes it to break up into small pieces. The quality improves, however, as the mountains are approached. For household use it is superior to any other coal on the market.

### The Most Lightly Taxed Country.

It should be remembered that the national revenues from which the territorial and provincial subsidies are provided in Canada are raised by customs duties averaging somewhere between 25 and 30



CATTLE RAISING IN WESTERN CANADA.

There must be fertile soil, there must be a suitable climate, there must be the possibility of building up a modern civilization; and the conditions must be such that labor can reach the land; or in other words land must be cheap. The Canadian Northwest contains the largest unbroken area of country on the continent or in the world fulfilling all these conditions. In its thousand miles of plains which stretch from the Lake of the Woods to the Rocky Mountains, Canada is able to offer land to the landless of the continent and of the world. Not that these plains are altogether unoccupied. For twenty years past, and more, settlement has been drifting in and scattering far and wide over the prairies. These were years of experiment and too often of disappointment, when unexpected conditions were met with, and disastrous results felt. But this year, over all the vast stretch of territory the only complaint of the farmers and ranchers is that the railways have not sufficient rolling stock to

would not otherwise have been believed. The fact of the grain production of the past season in Manitoba and the Northwest is that a certain number of farmers have produced a greater value of wheat, oats and cattle for sale than any other equal number anywhere else in the known world. This is the best possible answer to the question: Is there wealth in the land of the Northwest?

### Variety of Conditions.

The Northwest is not all alike in its production. Wheat growing is the specialty of one part, cattle ranching of another, and mixed farming,—the growth of grain and live stock together—of still another. Speaking roughly the southeastern parts of the Territories and Manitoba are wheat growing; the southwestern part of the Territories is ranching, and the northern part of the Territories is mixed farming country. Differences of soil, climate and other conditions are the causes of these

absence of wind, there is still winter, and it must be provided against. The cost of fuel in an entirely prairie region is probably the heaviest of the many taxes which the new settler has to bear. Whether crops are bad or good, prices high or low, fuel must be had or life cannot be sustained. The Canadian West is doubly blessed in the matter of fuel. The many considerable wooded areas and the numerous smaller clumps or bluffs ensures an abundant supply of fuel at the lowest possible cost to the settler, his own labor. If the settler desires to cut wood on government land he must secure a permit at a small fee, this is required to prevent waste. But otherwise the settler has the full advantage of the public timber at the mere cost of his own labor. While he is always near fuel timber at least, so that the labor is reduced to a minimum.

### Three Hundred Miles of Coal.

But this district has not only abundance of wood. It has even greater abundance

per cent. as compared with customs duties in the United States averaging over 50 per cent. That instead of a direct tax for state purposes besides, such as is levied in the United States, the expenses of the territorial and provincial governments are borne by this 25 to 30 per cent customs rate. That 70 per cent of the expense of school teachers salaries in the Territories comes out of the same fund without direct taxation on the people. That the large local public works in the Territories are provided out of the same fund without a cent of state or municipal taxation. And that in the road or local improvement tax the settler is given all possible advantage as against the non-resident speculator, while the costs of management are a merely nominal sum to the overseer, for his time actually employed. Canada is the most lightly taxed country in the world and the Territories are the most lightly taxed part of Canada; while enjoying every advantage that comes with good government.