

A LONDONER OUT WEST.

Interesting Visit to an Experimental Farm.

Fruit Culture on the Great Western Plains.

A Government Asylum That Has No Inmates!

To the Editor of the ADVERTISER:

In my wanderings to and fro in this land of wheat fields, of rains and frosts, with my eyes steadfastly bent toward the Rockies in the ocean beyond, I have reached a point, the chief town of Eastern Manitoba, and have shaken the Manitoba mud from my feet, or attempted to do so, and have found the attempt, not, however, as a testimony against them, but as a testimony to their inclination to come westward. Before bidding good-bye to the Prairie Province permit me to say a few words in reference to the general character and outline of the country, a subject I have not touched upon in my former letters.

A grassy plain, stretching as far as the eye can see, unrelieved by tree or shrub, valley or mountain height, is not descriptive of Manitoba, however much we may read and talk of the broad and boundless prairie, and to one who has thought of the country as being a smooth monotony, the variety and beauty of the landscape scenery is a pleasing revelation. It is quite true that the land is not by any means all hills and valleys, nor is it densely covered with trees and shrubs. From Winnipeg to Portage la Prairie, a distance of 66 miles west, or from Winnipeg past Morris, a distance of 60 miles south, and for miles in various other parts of the country you can gaze into the distance, and scarcely a tree or shrub and not the slightest elevation will intercept the view; the eye sees nothing save the level prairie and the blue sky above. But past Portage, up the Manitoba and Northwestern Railway to Birtle, or on the main line west past Brandon, or, if it please you, better, along the Manitoba and Southwestern Railway past Morden, mountains are seen in the distance, the prairie is rolling, often rising to abrupt heights and descending into deep ravines, many of which are threaded with sparkling streams, their banks covered with trees and shrubs. This is especially true of the country along the Manitoba and Northwestern Railway.

Brandon, a town of between 4,000 and 5,000 inhabitants, is pleasantly situated on the southern bank of the Assiniboine, where nine or ten years ago an unsettled prairie would have met the traveler's eye. Next to Winnipeg it is the largest and most prosperous town in the Province. Surrounded by a magnificent farming country and possessing exceptional railway facilities, it is sure in the near future to become a town of very considerable importance. Its citizens are enterprising, energetic and ambitious, so ambitious that they look and apparently hope some day to rival Winnipeg. They claim, and with some truth, that Brandon possesses many natural advantages all important to the building up of a successful city which Winnipeg does not enjoy. On behalf of Winnipeg, however, let it be said, its citizens are not least disturbed at their city's rival's prospects, and are confident that their own must ever increasingly be, as it now is, the metropolis of the Northwest.

On the opposite and northern bank of the Assiniboine, slightly to the east of the central part of the town, is situated the new Provincial Home for Incurables. The building, a large, commodious brick structure, is erected just on the crest of the hill overlooking the river and town. The Government could not have selected a more pleasant location for such an institution. When there a short time ago I took occasion to ask one of the attendants how many people they had in the institution. He replied, "Eight, but the governor (the Hon. J. W. Sifton) is sick." I asked him if he did not mean officers or attendants, but patients. He appeared astonished that I should ask such a question and replied, "None, and never had any," and I thought to myself truly what a beneficent Government must have to find employment for this many officers in a task so arduous. It is at least a matter for congratulation that their climate is so healthful and invigorating they have no incurables.

A short distance to the west, also overlooking the river and town, and pleasantly situated, is the Dominion Experimental Farm for the Province of Manitoba, under the management of Mr. Bedford, a genial, affable gentleman, possibly 35 years of age, who thoroughly understands his business, and is always pleased to show visitors the farm and explain matters of interest to them. The choice of location was most fortunate. In the 800 acres of which the farm consists they have both high land and meadow land, rolling and level prairie, and possessing the advantages of a considerable portion of it being scrubby, thus giving them that variety of soil essential to successful experimenting applicable to the varied needs of the Province. In a country like Manitoba, subject as it certainly is in some years to drought and others to frost, it is a most important matter which grains best combine the largest yield, and of which the most producing qualities, with hardiness and early maturity, and on what kind of soil the respective crops can most profitably be grown. These and numerous other questions that might be suggested are all of vital importance to successful farming in this country, and are questions the solution of which no individual farmer can afford to attempt. Of the many departments, all of which are interesting, the one that specially attracted my attention was that of fruit culture. I will confess to a great fondness for fruit, and its scarcity in this country is more than noticeable. A fruit vendor would almost look askance were you to ask for a peach of apples; they are always sold by the pound. Four good sized apples will easily make a pound, and at the present time you can purchase this extensive quantity of fruit for 10 cents.

The merchants claim, without the least difficulty, whether a customer is an inhabitant or a new arrival, and in no case perhaps more easily than should the customer wish to purchase fruit, the following incident will show. While I was in Brandon a short time ago a gentleman walked into a fruit store and asked for 5 cents worth of peaches. The merchant made answer, "We do not divide them in this country." The man looked puzzled and said, "Beg your pardon, sir, what did you say?" Again the reply came, "We do not divide them in this country." The customer catching at least a faint glimmer of the merchant's meaning, stammered out, "Why, what do you mean? What is the price, anyway?" For 25 cents, was the answer, and the would-be purchaser decided that he would not be a buyer and started for the door, but just before going out he turned on his heel and said, "Well, can you sell me 5 cents' worth of apples, then?" "No," came the chilling reply, "We don't sell anything

LATEST OLD WORLD GOSSIP.

The time to be occupied by a dinner has gradually been curtailed to such a point of brevity that in France fashion is returning to a more leisurely service of the meal. Dine the complete that courses follow so quickly on each other that there is opportunity neither for appreciation of the food nor for conversation.

Dr. Gautrelet, of Vichy, says that a piece of cotton wool steeped in 5 to 10 per cent. solution of pyrogallol acid, inserted in the pipe or cigar holder, will neutralize any possible ill effects of the nicotine. Citric acid has already been recommended by Vigier for the same purpose, but that spoils the taste of the tobacco.

After a long cessation of such events there has been a great bank robbery at the Cape of Good Hope, Bank, Kimberley. There were thirteen lost men, many lost cut through and twenty feet of earth to get into the strong room. As the crackmen were nearly finished, a bank suspended payment, and through hurriedly up the job, in order to prevent any withdrawal of the funds, they were discovered.

A historical curiosity of the oldest railway in Germany is about to be relegated to oblivion. When the Nürnberg-Fürth line, the first railway on German soil, replaced the old Thurn and Taxis yellow post, a yellow stripe was painted on every car, and for 55 years it has remained a unique reminder of the anti-railway age. The Bavarian Government, however, has just decided to paint the stripe he painted out, in order that the Nürnberg-Fürth cars may conform in appearance with all other railway cars in Bavaria.

Herr Hugo Zoller, who has recently been exploring in the mountains of New Guinea, says that not even in the most densely wooded parts of West Africa which he has visited is it so difficult to get through the forest as it is to penetrate the eastern part of New Guinea. The mountains, ranges, both high and low, are exceptionally steep and difficult to climb. Marching is also greatly retarded by the density of the forest and the hostile people, who have no provisions which explorers can make, make food supply very difficult.

The Mount Morgan gold mine, near Rockhampton, Queensland, continues to be the wonder of the world. It is believed to be paying larger profits than any other investment in the range of commerce. During the past year dividends to the amount of \$5,353,000 have been paid, and the entire property is now valued at the enormous sum of \$72,000,000. Yet this little hill was bought a few years ago for \$3,115, and its original owner, who held the property without dreaming it was of any value, is now a very poor man. From the base to the summit this so-called mountain is only about 700 feet high. The ore is of remarkably high grade, and there seems no prospect that it will be exhausted for many years.

Eleven years ago Mr. Keith Johnston, the well-known geographer, perished only a few weeks after he had entered Africa to explore the region between the sea and Lake Nyasa, and thence to Tanganyika. He was injured by Joseph Thompson, a boy still in his teens, who, instead of returning to the coast, went on with the expedition and made it a brilliant success. From that day until the present moment the grave of the talented geographer has never been visited. A while ago, however, Dr. Schmidt, the Imperial German Commissioner, while on expedition, found the grave of Keith Johnston. He cleared away the weeds, surrounded it with a wooden railing, and erected a wooden cross. He was joined by Joseph Thompson, who again erected there a stone or tablet to be sent out by the family and friends of the late geographer.

London still has such economies as this: In the Royal Palace of Justice two weeks ago two gentlemen, one the solicitor to the city and the other the secondary, went to the court to see the judge's remembrance. The remembrance thereupon stood up and made proclamation for the tenants and occupiers of a piece of waste ground in Salop to be taken forward and do their service. Thereupon the solicitor, standing at a table, cut two small faggots of wood, one with a hatchet and the other with a billhook, and the tenant and occupiers of a certain tenement called in the Palace were called to St. Clement Dances, in the county of Middlesex, were told to come and do service. Thereupon the solicitor came to the table to the table counted out ten horseshoes and 61 nails. The Remembrance checked the count and announced "Good number." Then the solicitor became to the remembrance to accept on behalf of the Corporation of London, the hatchet and billhook, which were duly accepted in the name of Her Majesty the Queen. The remembrance then became to many centuries ago Walter Delem became a tenant of the Crown in a forge adjoining the Church of St. Clement Dances, in the county of Middlesex. Lemora entered into possession of a piece of land in Shropshire, from which he was annually sent one faggot with a hatchet and another with a billhook.

Mr. Job Seales, of Toronto, writes: A short time ago I was suffering from Kidney Complaint and Dyspepsia, sour stomach and lame back in fact, I was completely prostrated and suffering intense pain. While in this state a friend recommended me to try a bottle of Northrop & Lyman's Vegetable Compound, and I used one bottle, and the manner in which it has cured and made a new man of me is such that I cannot withhold from the proprietors this expression of my gratitude.

"I couldn't help getting mad. Now, I appeal to you, if you were I, wouldn't you be angry?" "I don't know as I would be angry, but if I were you I should be exceedingly so."

Nothing impure or injurious contaminates the popular attitude to pain, throat and lung remedy as a general corrective, Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil. It may be used without the slightest apprehension of any other than salutary consequences. Coughs, rheumatism, earache, bruises, cuts and sores succumb to its action.

He admitted, "Send 10 cents, and learn how to find the day of the month with a calendar." Ten cents was sent and the instruction was given: "Find out the date of the day before yesterday and add two."

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