

United States, for instance, \$3 to \$7 per day is charged at the pleasure and health resorts, while here at the Wisbeach good accommodation can be had for from \$7 to \$10 per week. Further, here the water is cooler and purer than in any southern port; fishing is good and fish good to eat when caught, which is not the case at all places we have visited. The scenery is good and the air all that can be desired. Back of Sarnia, extends for three hundred miles east, and one hundred north and south, a fine tract of farming land, all well watered, with spring brooks and running streams, and producing the most valuable life and health-giving products, where stock are free from disease, where horses are raised that endure 25 per cent. more work than those in the south, where men and women are raised that have stamina and endurance, and live and work to a good old age. Surely we, as Canadians, have much to be proud of. Many people think if they have seen Niagara Falls, or the Yosemite Valley, or ran across the Rockies, they have seen America; but, if they have not taken this trip from London to Detroit, along the Southern Railway, thence to Sarnia, and along the Grand Trunk to London, there is much of the beautiful in America that they have not seen.

Canadian Pacific Railway Lands.

Twenty-five million acres, consisting of lands fairly fit for settlement, were granted to this company by the Dominion Government as a part of the subsidy for the construction of the railway. Out of this the company have sold 10,000,000 acres, leaving 15,000,000 now in their hands for sale. The bulk of these lands are located within 25 miles of their main line. These have been all carefully examined and selected, and the information thus obtained is open for inspection at the company's land office in Winnipeg. Purchasers have therefore the advantage of being able to choose the class of land they are in search of without losing valuable time in exploring the country. The regulations governing the sale of land are very simple. There are no conditions of settlement exacted. The land can be secured by the payment of one-tenth of the purchase money, the balance being spread over nine years at 6 per cent. interest.

Round trip land explorer's tickets can be obtained at Winnipeg, the cost of which is credited on the land purchased, thus enabling prospectors to view the land personally, before buying, free of cost.

To show how the demand is constantly increasing for the company's lands, it is sufficient to show the amount of land sold for the last three years: 1887, 60,000 acres for \$204,000; 1888, 162,000 acres for \$554,000; 1889, for the first 6 months of the year, 146,000 acres for \$537,766.

These figures show that the average price of railway lands is now \$3.70 an acre. The prices range from \$2.50 per acre for grazing or hay lands, up to \$7.00 for the highest quality of farming land.

In addition to the lands belonging to the Canadian Pacific Co., they control the valuable lands in the choicest district of Southern Manitoba, being those received for the construction of the Manitoba South-western Colonization Railway. These comprise over a million acres, in a territory well provided with railways, market towns, roads, schools and churches. They are sold at an average price of \$5.00 per acre, a low figure for lands adjoining well-worked farms, and possessing all the advantages of an old settled district.

The company have recently published some valuable maps, etc., showing the lands for sale in the different districts. These and other information, valuable to the intending visitor, can be obtained free of cost by sending your name to L. A. Hamilton, C. P. R. Land Commissioner, Winnipeg.

Some of the Peculiarities of Manitoba and the North-west Explained.

Before continuing the description of the country, evidence of the settlers, etc., we will explain some of the peculiarities, that our readers may better understand future descriptions. The soil in Manitoba is not at all like that in eastern Canada. In what is known as the Red River valley, and in many places in the valley of the Assiniboine, the soil is of the same quality, a rich, black mould, to the depth of from two to six feet, and will probably average, over large tracts, three feet deep. In other sections, this mould is mixed with more or less sand, varying in thickness from four to twenty-four inches. The quality of the subsoil is of great moment. When it is composed of a good rich clay, and has good natural drainage, it is first-class. But there is land with a shallow surface soil overlying sand or gravel, which may produce a good crop for a year or two, especially when wet, but will soon become exhausted, and will always be a failure in a dry year. Though settlers have done and will do well on such land for a time, I think it unwise to settle on it. There are millions of acres possessing a good subsoil to be had for a trifling advance in price. In the Red River valley the land is heavy and has occasionally suffered from excessive moisture, some places being flooded at such times; for this reason, it is not as well settled as one would expect. Still it has one advantage, and a great one, viz., the apparently inexhaustible qualities of the soil. Crops can be grown on the same land year after year, and by occasionally summer-fallowing, the yield seems undiminished. Still, even here there are farms so badly worked and dirty that the products are much lessened; good farming would remedy this, however. On the east side of the Red River, water is generally easily obtained, and flowing wells are frequent; but on the west side, especially toward the south, it is frequently scarce or bad, good water being hard to get. As an instance, we would mention the Lowe farm, west of Morris, the land there is grand, but there is no good water nearer than ten miles, and they have to draw all they use this distance during the summer season. Such cases are occasionally found, but they are not insurmountable barriers, as we eastern men would suppose. Artesian wells will doubtless overcome this difficulty. There is much land west of the Red River valley that will be found most profitable to crop every other year. What is cropped this year should be summer-fallowed next. Not fall-plowed, but plowed after the seeding is done, and harrowed and rolled to make as solid as possible. Some of the most successful farmers roll after each harrowing. Plowing is generally done but once, and enough harrowing only given to keep weeds from growing. When the subsoil is good, land thus treated can be relied on for a crop the next year, and is capable of withstanding severe droughts. Much of this land is benefitted by the application of farm yard manure which has proved useless up to the present time on some of the heavier and damper lands near the Red River. It must not be understood that the only land that can be cropped yearly is in the Red River valley. There are doubtless tracts possessing the same qualities beyond, but much of the western land is most profitable when handled in this way, and it certainly makes farming more easy, less hurried and more certain.

The prairie when once broken is everywhere easily worked, especially in southern and western Manitoba. It is not an infrequent thing to find a farmer who has prepared the soil and put in 100 acres of grain with one team.

The grass question, especially in dry years, seems one of vital importance. The hay and grain land are separate in this country. On grain land the grass is short and much thinner than in Ontario. On the hay, or what eastern men would call semi-marsh lands, grain could not be successfully grown without arterial drainage. When thoroughly drained they would not successfully grow hay. Here the different grades of land are generally in large tracts, hence the difficulty of obtaining hay in some places. Yet it can be procured in great abundance, though in some cases it has to be drawn several miles. This is sometimes overcome by putting up cattle sheds on the hay land and wintering stock there, in other instances by saving their straw and chaff. Neither cultivated grasses nor clovers have been generally successful, though here and there a few good fields of timothy have been grown, especially in damp seasons, but no other cultivated variety has as yet proved of value, and timothy only to a limited extent. Speaking of the country generally, the cultivation of some of the native grasses seems to give the most encouraging results. Still, nothing can be determined definitely by the tests yet made. In a few places a little white clover may be seen and sometimes a few heads of Alsike. These seem to grow best on places where the clay subsoil has become mixed with the surface mould. I have also been told of red clover growing on similar places but did not see any.

Farmers frequently send their cattle, with the exception of a few milch cows, out with a large number of others, which are herded for the summer months on grass land near water, for \$1.00 to \$1.50 per head for the season. The man who takes charge of the herd becomes responsible for the safe return of all animals committed to his charge. Horses are taken for \$1.50 to \$2.00 per head per season. Other men make a business of wintering cattle, and put up large quantities of hay and erect temporary stables. The usual charge is from \$5 to \$7 per head for the winter months. Others again cut and put up hay for farmers, sometimes they receive \$1 per ton, sometimes 25 to 50 cents per ton more. Hundreds of tons are annually put up for \$1.00 per ton. This hay when well saved is very nutritious, especially for cattle. Milk from cows fed on it, whether as hay or grass, is very rich and produces dairy goods of fine color and quality.

The bad water in Manitoba has been the theme of many—it has been made far too much of. In certain sections, and on certain farms, difficulty has been experienced. Boring can be done very rapidly and cheaply; a deep well costs but little money. In fact, a well 100 feet deep is within the reach of the most humble, but very frequently good water in abundance can be obtained at a much less depth. It is only in a limited number of sections where it is as scarce as at the Lowe Farm, even where poor or bad water is plentiful. At Deloraine, south of Regina, at the Crofter settlements, north of Moosomin, and a few other places, difficulty has been experienced, but the boring machine will doubtless overcome this. The alkali lands in Manitoba are not a myth, they exist in reality, here and there, but generally soon work out when cultivated. The settlers do not dread them, as eastern men are led to believe. There is a terrible howl about the fuel question. The hardships undergone in obtaining wood has been enlarged beyond all measure. Novelists have written thrilling stories of this hardship, travellers have vied with them in endeavoring to substantiate their ridiculous falsehoods. It is true there are places where wood is distant, but it can always be bought of fairly good quality and in abundant supply at any of the villages at from \$2.00 to \$5.00 per cord. I would put the average price of soft wood at \$3.00 per cord, oak at \$4.00.

Coal is plentiful. The Galt mine is now being worked and others will be rapidly opened up. But to the farmers and settlers, straw, of which