

instances they resemble the small farmhouses of the home country. The prairie is specially fitted for wheat growing and cattle raising. The inducements to grow wheat, which resulted generally in enormous returns, were such that it is not to be wondered at that settlers should largely avail themselves of it. It paid the producer well for a time, but soon the market became overstocked, and prices fell to such an extent that at present it scarcely pays the labour. The fall is due, not to want of richness in the soil, but to the overflow in the market. Threshing machines go about the country much in the same manner as at home, and charge from 1½d to 1d per bushel. The stubble is used for firing the engine. Some of the farmers club together and procure a threshing mill for themselves.

The prairie soil is the richest in the world. It has been discovered by analysis that the richness is due to the gathering of the droppings of myriad birds and animals that roamed undisturbed and at large over it for thousands of years, also to the ashes of prairie fires that swept over it from time to time, together with the decayed animal and vegetable matter which have accumulated for ages on the clay sub-soil. It is to this stored-up wealth in the soil that the settler is invited to look for a successful return to all his labours. The scrub is pretty tough, and a team of oxen will draw the plough steadier and for a longer period than a pair of horses. It is equally well adapted for raising potatoes and other vegetables, especially cabbage and cauliflower, without the assistance of anything in the shape of manure. The potato splits are laid in the furrow and covered over with the grass side of the sod. They are left in this state till ripe and ready for consumption. The yield from this simple process is marvellous, and the potatoes are not only numerous, but of a large size, dry, and mealy, so that they command the highest prices in the market. The native grasses are nutritive, and good for fattening cattle. The alternate sections on either side of the line for some twenty-four miles inland belong to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, the others to the Government, and special facilities are offered by both to intending settlers. Rivers and lakes are numerous, and water may be found anywhere over the prairie by digging wells from sixteen to