

such factories as the city can maintain; such as a stove foundry, soap works, woollen mills, &c., &c. The land surrounding the city is a fertile, black mould, somewhat heavier and perhaps harder to work than the western land, but it will doubtless wear well. An excellent tract lies to the north-east, of which Springfield is the centre. West, along the "Portage Road," good farms and comfortable homes are to be seen; to the north-west the country is not so good. Why settlers do not buy the cheap and good land surrounding the city, is something astonishing. Land within a radius of twenty miles of the city can be bought for \$3 to \$10 per acre; many good farms can be bought within ten miles of the city for \$10 per acre. Fuel is abundant; timber always in sight. The advantages of being near a large and growing city, with its grand school privileges, and by far the best market in the Canadian North-west, must be evident to every thinking man. Doubtless, the west possesses some advantages. One peculiarity of the people here is, every man believes he lives in the best locality, and is thoroughly contented with his farm. We suppose there are some dissatisfied ones, but have not met one yet. Out of 600 reports received by the Agricultural Department of the province, only one expressed dissatisfaction. All classes seem to be doing well; but it is generally conceded that the farmers are doing better than any others. Many of the leading men in the province are farmers. All stock does very well here, as in other parts of Manitoba. The dray, buss, and street horses are generally a fine lot, especially noticeable for their sleek and healthy appearance. The majority of the farmers stable their young stock; yet others allow them to run out all winter. We saw a fine herd of horses belonging to the Hon. John Taylor, Headingly, that had never been inside of a stable, having grazed on the prairie and sheltered bluffs, winter and summer. When we saw them, about June 1st, they were in excellent health and condition, and showed no signs of having suffered hardships during the winter. When cattle are not stabled they are generally afforded the shelter of an open shed, which is enclosed on both ends and one side. Prairie hay, which can be procured in abundance in most sections, generally forms their only feed. The only expense incurred is the cost of saving, about \$1 per ton. Persons may own large herds of cattle or horses, who do not own any land. Men with small capital can do exceedingly well here. Land throughout the province has increased in value at least \$2 per acre during the last year, and, without something unforeseen occurs, the increase will be more rapid in the near future.

There is a large amount of free-grant land still in the province, but settlers who have even a little money will find it to their advantage to buy land in settled districts, which are improving in a surprising manner, and even now offer nearly all the social advantages of the older countries. Roadways, or "trails," as they are called here, run in every direction, and at this season of the year afford most delightful highways.

The following are the reports of interviews which we have had with prominent and reliable men:—

MR JOHN RUSSELL,
Manager of the Freehold Loan & Saving Company's branch here, is an educated man, of very wide experience in this country, and is very highly esteemed for his honor, good judgment

and business ability. He is a brother of Messrs. James, William and Andrew Russell, the well-known stock men of Richmond Hill, Ont. He says:—"For ten miles north of the main line of the C. P. R., west of the Red River and south as far as the boundary, the land is nearly all good. Of this, the best sections are the Mennonite reserve, the Portage La Prairie district, and that around Carbury, Brandon and the Turtle Mountain country. There is also much good country on the Manitoba & North-western RR., the chief of which are the districts surrounding Neepawa, Minnedosa and Birtle. The farmers are doing better here than in Ontario, or any of the older states or provinces. A farmer with \$1,000 here can accomplish more than one with \$5,000 in any of the above places. All practical working farmers do well. Those from Ontario are by far the best settlers. To start comfortably here, a man should have \$1,000 and upwards. He should never buy implements or other goods until he really needs them, and must have them; and be careful not to overreach himself by buying too much land, or trying to cultivate too much. When a young man can homestead and pre-empt, he should do so; but a man with a family should buy in a settlement where he will have school and church privileges. Such land can be bought in good districts, always within twelve miles of a railway, for from \$5 to \$15 per acre; the terms are usually one-third down, the remainder on easy terms. For the past few years the average yield in the sections above mentioned have been:—Wheat, 28 bushels per acre; barley, 35, but a little dark in color, though heavy; oats, 50; some fields are known to yield 110 bushels per acre. The soil is more productive than that in Ontario, but occasional frosty years may be expected. Flax does very well, and will average 18 bushels per acre on suitable land. Peas are not a standard crop; nor clover. Timothy does fairly in some sections, and in such will produce from one ton to one and one-half tons per acre. The native grass is very nutritious. Potatoes, field roots, vegetables, and small fruits do exceedingly well; but apples and other large fruits do not succeed. Stock of all kinds does very well, but needs the same care as in Ontario. Some sections are especially suitable for horses and sheep. The pasturage is thinner than that in Ontario, and will not support more than one-half as much stock per acre as Ontario land; more land per head will, therefore, be required, both for summer and winter keep. The land varies greatly; any quality can be obtained—light or heavy, flat or rolling—to suit the views of the settler."

JOHN SUTHERLAND,
ex-M. P. P., of Kildonan, Man., is of Scotch origin, but was born and has lived all his life here in the Selkirk settlement. He has owned his present property of 284 acres since 1870. For the past five years his grain has averaged, per acre:—Wheat, 30; barley, 30; oats, 50; potatoes, 250. He says: "Any man who works will do well. One thousand dollars will give a man a good start. Settlers should buy oxen, not horses. Oxen do farm work as well as horses, keep cheaper and cost less. As an example of the progress made here by settlers, I will instance the case of James Hudson, who came from Petrolia about 1871, without cash, and took up a homestead and pre-emption; his neighbors helped him, and he succeeded well. He has

now a farm worth \$6,600, which is constantly growing in value, and at least \$3,000 worth of stock and implements."

ALEXANDER MORRISON,
Springfield, Man., has 320 acres, on which he settled seven years ago. Since that time his average yield per acre has been:—Wheat, 20 bushels; barley, 35; oats, 45; peas, not a success. He plows once in the fall; then, in the spring, sows broadcast and harrows twice. He keeps about 40 cattle, and finds they do well on straw and prairie hay. He estimates the average yield of nutritious hay on the prairie to be one ton per acre. One of his neighbors,

ALEXANDER M'PHERSON,
came from Ontario in 1871, without capital; he has now 1,000 acres, seven miles east of the city of Winnipeg; 50 cattle, three horses; 100 acres in grain and 100 in timothy. He thinks the native grasses make the best hay.

ALDERMAN D. A. ROSS,
2 William street, is said to be one of the best-posted men in the province concerning the land in the different sections. He is a native of Nairn, Middlesex Co., Ont., and came to Manitoba in 1874. He puts the average crop per acre since that time as follows:—Wheat, 25; barley, 35; oats, 50; and has seen 100 bushels per acre of the last-named. Oats and barley are sure crops. Working men who understand farming (when they have not too big ideas), always do well, if they do not overreach themselves by going too far into debt, or by trying to do too much for their ability or capital. He instanced the case of an Englishman who arrived in 1870, with no capital; he now owns a farm worth \$5,000, 100 head of cattle, four horses and a full line of implements, and has money lent. Hundreds of such examples could be given.

MR. T. H. SMITH, M. P. P.,
Springfield, Man., came to the province in 1865. He says:—"The Springfield section is as good for mixed farming as any in Manitoba, and the advantages are as great for settlers as anywhere. The benefits of the city markets are obvious. During the past five years my grain has averaged per acre, as follows:—Wheat, 35 bushels; oats, 50 bushels, and have sometimes yielded 65; potatoes, 250. The native hay is very nutritious; it might be much improved by manuring and cultivation. The hay lands might also be improved by sowing in grass seed when manuring and cultivating them. Clover might be grown successfully, but it has yet to be extensively tested. An industrious farmer would do well with a capital of \$1,000; but I advise all immigrants to keep out of debt and not overreach themselves. Stock of all kinds does very well. I have bred sheep for twenty years, and have always found them profitable."

We found Mr. Smith a clear-headed, sagacious man, very conversant with the country, and much respected by his countrymen for his sterling qualities. The opinions of such men are always valuable.

After passing some time east and north of the city, we drive west, over the Portage. One of the most attractive and noticeable farms in this section is

SIR DONALD A. SMITH'S.
It is five miles west of the city, at Silver Heights, and comprises about 800 acres, about 300 of which are in grain, which promises exceedingly well. A herd of 20 Herefords and 36 West Highland cattle are kept for breeding pur-