

### Farming in Manitoba.

THE TENDENCY TOWARDS DIVERSIFIED FARMING IN THE GREAT PRAIRIE PROVINCE.

(BY THE HON. THOS. GREENWAY, PREMIER OF MANITOBA.)

Farming in Manitoba is no longer an experiment. When I first came to the Province, eighteen years ago, and for several years afterwards, it was thought by some questionable whether farming operations could be made a success or not. Especially was it true with regard to wheat-growing. Some of our Eastern friends who paid us visits in the early "eighties" said that it was yet in doubt whether or not wheat could be grown successfully. For myself I never had any misgivings upon that point. It has, however, long ago been established beyond question that we can grow an excellent quality of wheat and get a crop each year with as little liability to failure as in any other wheat-producing country. The great fertility of our soil cannot be better proven than by noting the results attained last year in grain-growing, when 25,000 farmers produced considerably over 60,000,000 bushels. I fancy that these results have

NEVER BEEN EQUALED IN ANY OTHER COUNTRY.

It is also gratifying to note that the quality of flour produced from our hard wheat is being better understood and appreciated, as evidenced by the fact that large orders have recently been received for it from countries where it is being introduced for the first time. With advantages of this kind, it was, perhaps, quite natural that many should come to the conclusion that the success of the farmers depended solely upon wheat-growing. In pursuance of that idea, for years our wheat area went on increasing rapidly, but it has long become patent, to every careful, observing agriculturist at least, that if we would become successful farmers we must not depend upon wheat alone, but undertake a little of the various kinds of farming, stock-raising, poultry, etc., as well as grain-growing. A considerable progress has been made in that regard in recent years. It is because I fear that on account of the recent advance in price of wheat our farmers may next year commit the old error of "putting too many eggs in one basket" that I am found, in response to the invitation of the ADVOCATE, writing a few lines upon the subject that always takes the foremost place with me, "Farming in Manitoba."

My advice to my fellow-farmers is the same now as it has been for years: Diversify your farming operations as much as possible, doing a little—of course, as much as you can—in the different branches—cattle, sheep, hogs, poultry, etc. Grain-growing must not be neglected, for it is yet your staple industry; but the labor in connection with grain-growing is restricted to six months in the year: sowing, summer-fallowing, harvesting, and threshing and marketing. It is only when this work is supplemented by stock-raising, giving employment to farm hands during the balance of the year, that farmers can really show what our Province is capable of doing in their line. To the outside world it is now generally known what the Province can do in wheat-raising. It is well, however, to consider what can be done in the other branches of agriculture.

Some two years ago in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories a general export trade in fat cattle was commenced, shipping direct to Great Britain. This trade is only in its infancy, and will undoubtedly develop rapidly. The business from the Territories will not interfere with that of Manitoba. We produce, or should produce, the

VERY FINEST STALL-FED CATTLE,

fed upon coarse grains, grasses, and roots, which grow here in such abundance. These cattle should be ready the first thing in the spring, when prices are generally best; while cattle from the Territories fatten during the summer on the ranches and are shipped in the fall. The conditions are most favorable for feeding cattle in this Province. We have cheap feed, and it is in winter that our labor is cheapest.

Speaking of this question of feeding, does it not strike the thoughtful Manitoban that there is quite an anomaly existing regarding this question? The Manitoba farmer grows vast quantities of coarse grains suitable for food for stock. Instead of using it himself in that way, he more frequently takes it to market; often gets but a low price; it is shipped East; pays a heavy freight rate, and is fed there to the kind of stock that should be fed with it here. No doubt much of it is consumed by farmers there in feeding for the Manitoba market large quantities of poultry. For instance, I saw an account in a paper a few days ago of a party who was purchas-

ing a number of carloads of poultry in Ontario for shipment to Manitoba, to be brought here, pay another high freight rate, then to be consumed by Manitoba people. Now, it must be apparent to the most obtuse that this is all wrong.

Let me say a word further upon the stock question. I think greater care should be taken to improve stock, cattle especially, so that every animal offered for sale may show the stamp of good breeding. This can only be done by a careful selection of stock and continually adding new blood by the use of the very best sires, so that the progeny may be as far removed as possible from the so-called scrub, which in many cases cost more for care and feed than they are worth and have a tendency to disgust farmers with cattle-raising. For the reason that this important matter has not yet received proper attention, many of our so-called fat cattle going out of the Province are not suitable for the export trade, and consequently do not command the highest prices.

With the increasing number of cattle, dairying is fast becoming an important feature of our agricultural pursuits. The success of this industry is so far satisfactory, but up to the present time the work of the cheese factories and creameries has been confined to the summer months. I believe that this work will in the near future be extended to the winter months; the desirability of such action I am sure must be quite manifest. The increase of all products of the dairy during the winter, as well as the time at the disposal of the farmers to attend to the work, are alike favorable. Personally, I may say that I have every confidence that

OUR DAIRYING INDUSTRY

will soon become one of our most important. I have recently been making additions to my buildings for the care and feeding of all kinds of stock, but more

### Farming in Prince Edward Island.

"OUR LOT IS CAST IN A PLEASANT PLACE; YEA, WE HAVE A GOODLY HERITAGE."

(BY WILLIAM CLARK, NORTH WILTSHIRE.)

That dairying has taken a wonderful stride forward in this Province during the last decade, no one acquainted with the facts will for a moment deny. The beginning of the "nineties" found our farmers producing about enough butter to supply the local market, while of cheese nearly the entire amount consumed here was imported from Montreal. True, a few cheese factories had been in operation before that time, but they failed to work satisfactorily for either the proprietor or the patrons, and so had to suspend business. In 1892 the first cheese factory was started here on the co-operative principle, under the care of the Dominion Government, and the returns were so satisfactory that year to the patrons that the following year eleven factories were operating, and since then the business has steadily grown, till this year thirty factories and half a dozen creameries are operating, the output of the cheese factories being valued at \$200,000, and that of the creameries at \$20,000, and this in spite of a severe depression in prices of dairy products.

While dairying has been enjoying such a boom, other branches of live stock husbandry have not suffered, unless we except the breeding of draft horses, and our farmers have themselves to blame to a certain extent that our horse trade is not what it was in the "eighties." Because a few Standard-breds were sold here at sensational figures, farmers went headlong into breeding that sort, and they now find themselves with a lot of spindle-legged horses that are of little use on the farm and bring little or nothing in the market. But our exports of hog products, poultry products sheep and lambs, are increasing rapidly from year to year, while our exports of oats, potatoes, hay, and other raw products of the farm are as steadily decreasing. These facts all go to show that the tendencies of the times in farming in this Province are all towards live stock husbandry and a gradual abandoning of the idea that nothing can excel oats and potatoes for export, for the growth of which our soil and climate are particularly adapted.

The great, the pressing need of the farmers at the present day is organized agricultural effort. We, as farmers, are working singly and alone. We have not one really live fruit-growers' or live stock breeders' or dairymen's association in this Province today. True, we have a few farmers' associations, but they exist in name only. They meet once a year to elect officers, but they do no practical work. Such a system of organized work as exists in Ontario would be a great boon to the farmers of this Province. The benefit accruing from the hundreds of Farmers' Institute and dairy meetings held this winter must be incalculable. Then, again, we have grievances im-

posed on us by our Legislature. Our farmers are paying more than their just share of the taxation, and as long as we remain unorganized, as we are at present, our legislators will laugh in their sleeve at us, and we can make no effective demands for redress. We have the minor needs of cold storage for our perishable products, better transportation facilities than we have at present, a cheaper rate of interest on money borrowed by our farmers, but all these and other boons we would soon have if we would but organize and work together.

As we take a retrospective survey we can view the present with much satisfaction, and look forward to the future with hope. The time is quite fresh in the mind of the writer when nine-tenths of us did our business wholly on the credit system. If we took a load of produce to market, the amount was entered on the merchant's books, and if not previously taken up in groceries and provisions, which was generally the case, it had to be taken up in the future. Very little cash found its way into a farmer's pocket. Now nine-tenths of us are independent and buy for cash and sell for cash, and it is an immense advantage. Our prospects for the future are bright. With dairying established on so solid a footing, with live stock husbandry steadily becoming our sheet anchor, with a wonderfully fertile soil and with a salubrious climate, we can say with the psalmist of old, "Our lot is cast in pleasant places; yea, we have a goodly heritage."

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NATIVE MAPLE HEDGE AT EXPERIMENTAL FARM, BRANDON, MAN.

especially for the milking cows, the number of which I intend increasing as fast as I can, with the view of becoming a larger patron of the creamery, and with the view of trying to induce winter operations, at least in our own locality.

Now, just let me say again to your Manitoba readers: Do not make the mistake of depending entirely upon wheat or any other one kind of grain. I believe that from cattle, hogs, sheep, and poultry and their products come returns that change a farmer's account from a bare living, oftentimes a deficit, to a prosperous occupation, as well as daily furnishing his table with the very best in the land, and convincing him that we enjoy in Manitoba a grand heritage in one of the best agricultural countries in the world.

**Manitoba Maple, or Box Elder (Negundo Aceroids), Hedge and Tree Belt on the Experimental Farm, Brandon, Man.**

"Of this tree about 400 feet of double hedge is now being tested. It is found that two rows of trees planted alternately three feet apart each way makes the most effective windbreak."—From report of S. A. Bedford, 1894.

"One row of maple seed sown about 1st May will make the best windbreak around buildings and along roads, when appearance and labor are taken into consideration. If maple is used for gardens, etc., not more than one row should be sown or planted together, as even one row absorbs a great deal of moisture from land in immediate vicinity."—From report of A. Mackay, 1894.

The illustration given shows what a beautiful windbreak a few years' growth will furnish. Many such can now be found scattered over Manitoba.