

wheat grain there were eighty-five stalks to the stool, and fifty grains on the average to the stalk, or a return of 4,250. While there can be no doubt whatever that in the region under review there is an ample supply of fertile land, it is only fair to state that there was some conflict of opinion as to its suitability for agriculture, the one serious objection being the occasional occurrence of early frosts. On the other hand, there was a pretty general consensus of opinion that this difficulty would be got over by the practice which is beginning to prevail of fall sowing, which insures that the seed, which the severe frost does not in the least injure, comes away with the first breath of spring."

We therefore made it a point to enquire into the truth of this statement as to summer frosts, as the land agents that we met on our journey out in praising their own lands invariably ran down every other locality, and the summer frosts was one of the drawbacks they mentioned in speaking of Alberta; on the other hand all the settlers as well as the townspeople were positive in stating that there had never been any injury by frost to their knowledge, and for further proof we refer to the following extracts and letters to be found in the Calgary District Agricultural Society pamphlet 1884, published by the Dominion Agricultural Department:

"I settled in this place in July, 1875, and have been farming ever since. As regards summer frost, never experienced them, or found out that they existed.

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"I have never failed in raising a good crop of wheat, oats, barley and vegetables of all descriptions during each of the successive years, and have also raised tomatoes and cucumbers every year in the open air. Of wheat I have averaged 37 bushels; oats 57 bushels; barley 71 bushels to the acre; and have some this year not behind that standard. Average yield of potatoes, on eight acres last year, was 225 bushels to the acre.

"Industriously inclined people can get along comfortably with about \$1,000 capital to start with, but still more would be better.

"I like the climate better than any I have found between the Atlantic and Pacific, the Rio Grande and Peace River, over all of which territory I have travelled. There is everything in the country which a settler can desire.

"There are people who desire to run the country down, who say we have no market for produce here: those who have to buy say we have a good one and at good prices; those who have anything to sell always manage to get the money for it at a good round figure.

"There are the mountains close by with large timber and mineral resources; these interests have to draw their supplies either from Calgary or further east, and they will naturally buy here to save extra railway freight. Winnipeg people say we shall have to send our surplus there; but when we have any we shall send it to the Pacific, which is 230 miles nearer to us than Winnipeg.

"Fish Creek, Sept. 4, 1884.

JOHN GLENN."

"I came from British Columbia to Alberta over two years ago, and formerly lived in Ontario. I have been engaged in mixed farming for two years on a ranch between Fish and Pine Creeks, near Calgary. I have