

On the 12th May the cattle were feeding on the prairie, and the rich yellow cream bore testimony to the goodness of the grass.

I have now given to the best of my ability a short account of the first year spent by us in this Great Lone Land. At this time so many are leaving dear old England to seek a home in other lands, and to these, at least, I hope it may be interesting; from it they may be able to understand a few of the difficulties that have to be met with by all settlers in a new country, although the experience of every family may vary, it may, too, be a satisfaction to know how happy English people really are when away from the comforts and luxuries to which they have all their lives been accustomed.

In Canada you do not so much realise that you are in a strange land, being still under the English flag, and all the people or their ancestors having come from the British Isles. And it is pleasant throughout the whole country to hear the affectionate way in which the Canadians speak of the "Old Country."

There are many English people settled in the Little Saskatchewan, and I have not heard of one who dislikes the North-West. Many would naturally prefer living amongst their friends, for it is indeed a severe wrench to break up a home and leave people and places that we have been warmly attached to from childhood, still I think they agree with me, that being out here is preferable to living in England on a small income when a certain amount of "appearance" seems necessary to be maintained and where there is so little prospect of providing for the children, or our own old age. Here there is every probability of the difficulties and disagreeables decreasing each year. Our life compared with that of those who first took land in this settlement, shows a decided improvement during the three years. Minnedosa is nearly in the centre of the County, where every necessary and even luxuries can be procured instead of going ninety or one hundred and fifty miles as those early settlers had to do. We are now able to reach Winnipeg or Portage la Prairie in as many hours as it has hitherto taken days.

Living in such small houses and the absence of servants is a thing not pleasant to contemplate when sitting in an English dining room, but before the little house is reached, there is so much to be gone through that people are only too glad to have a home of their own, and it is really a great pleasure to plan and contrive to make that little home as comfortable and convenient as possible, and that it is really *your own*, and that at any time you may build a more commodious dwelling when funds and time permit, help you to make the best of a small beginning, and when you see others contentedly doing the work that each day brings, and there is no one to do it for you, you naturally take a pride in doing well what in England you scarcely ever thought about. Still it does need a cheerful unrepining spirit, not to weary of the monotony, for each week brings much the same routine, and there are many things in a Colonial life totally at variance with our English ideas,