

settlement in the back woods of Ontario, thence back through Glasgow and Dantzig to Galicia, and link up the peaceful prairies of Canada with the blood-soaked, ravaged fields of the peasants of Galicia in Central Europe.

I have referred to the Wisconsin farmer's letter of 1860. He had been growing Red Fife for a few years. At that time this variety had made its way farther north and was being grown also in the Red River Valley of Manitoba. In a few years it became the standard of excellence upon the Prairies of the west—Manitoba Hard.

Wanted Five Thousand Bushels.

In 1876 spring wheat failed in Ontario, the old reliable Red Fife apparently had run out, it had lost its vigor—perhaps the fault lay in the soil rather than in the grain. The Red River Valley Fife wheat had made a reputation, and so in the fall of the year the late Mr. R. C. Steele, of Steele Brothers, Toronto, started for Manitoba. He travelled by rail to St. Paul and thence to Fisher's Landing, where, doubtful of the river navigation so late in the year, he took a lumber wagon and made the 150 miles to Winnipeg in thirty hours of continuous going. He wished to bring back 5,000 bushels but all that he was able to secure at Winnipeg was 857 bushels, which he bought at 85 cents a bushel. This wheat came down to Toronto by steamer from Winnipeg to Fisher's Landing, where he secured some additional United States wheat, thence by rail to Duluth, by vessel Duluth to Sarnia, and by rail from Sarnia to Toronto. This was the first wheat exported from Manitoba to the east. It was in the latter part of October 1876. Mr. Steele paid 85 cents per bushel for this wheat on the twelfth of October, 1876.

Harvest and Battlefield.

Hundreds of thousands of Russians, Germans and Austrians have for months been battling over the wheat lands of Galicia. Meanwhile a British army has been slowly moving north from the Persian Gulf, and driving the enemy out of the wheat lands of prehistoric times. This country of the Tigris and Euphrates, wherein human history begins, may well have been the original home of the Galician Red Fife wheat. Let us take a brief glance at the agriculture of that region. The farmer must first prepare his land. The plow consists simply of a share of soft iron attached to a frame of rough wood. It is drawn by a yoke of native cows or oxen and the depth of the furrow will depend mainly upon the strength of the man or boy who drives the beasts.

Over the soil thus roughly scored and turned the sower goes forth to sow his wheat or barley, scattering the seed by hand. He next brings out his drag, which consists simply of a heavy plank on which he stands while driving his cows or oxen. Thus he breaks the clods, levels the soil, and covers the seed. If the rains come in due season all is well; if not, he must flood his field through his irrigation system. Perhaps he is fortunate to be able to tap a source of supply that will furnish him water by gravity; if not he must raise it bucket by bucket from his wells. He has cast his bread upon the waters or watered soil and he expects it to return unto him after many days of sunshine. About midsummer the farmer and his family start out to reap the matured crop and the sole implements are hands and sickles. The grain is thrown loose into a stack.

When harvesting is finished, thrashing begins. The straw is spread out on the ground. The faithful cows are hitched to a crude log frame which carries a pair of wooden rollers. In these rollers are set short blunt blades. There is a seat for the driver. Back and forth the farmer drives his beasts. The knives cut and break the straw, and the grain is set free by the treading of the beasts and the crushing of the runners. And now the wheat must be separated from the broken straw and the chaff. A windy day is chosen and the winnowers arm themselves with wooden forks. Starting on the wind-