

deprived of the pleasure of joining a party in what would have been a most useful and instructive trip up to the summit of Mount Cheam at Agassiz. The delay, however, gave me an opportunity of a few hours collecting at Plumper's Pass, and a view of the salmon fishing fleet, as well as the salmon canneries in full operation at the mouth of the Fraser River. I left New Westminster on the 13th, reaching Agassiz the same evening. The following day the Harrison Hot Springs were visited and seeds and roots of many interesting western plants, particularly grasses, were collected and despatched to Ottawa. My next stop was at Calgary, where I spent one day and made further collections of botanical specimens. My attention was here drawn to a very beautiful lawn in front of the Ranchers' Club, showing that with sufficient water the very best lawns can be grown in this district. The grasses employed in making this lawn had evidently been *Poa pratensis*, which is undoubtedly the best grass for this purpose in all temperate climates; a little Meadow Fescue, which would have been far better omitted on account of its tufty growth; and white clover, which also thrives well in the west wherever it can obtain sufficient moisture. Indian Head was reached on the night of Saturday, the 17th. The following day further observations were made on the condition of the crops and noxious weeds, for comparison with notes taken during my former visit in July. I was disappointed to find that little has been done—outside of the Experimental Farm, on the Brassey farm and by Mr. Geo. Lang—in destroying the Tumbling Mustard. No opportunity was lost in again trying to convince everyone I met of the great danger of neglecting this weed. Prof. John Macoun, who happened to be at Indian Head at the same time, also spoke strongly in the same direction. In crossing the plains from Calgary to Indian Head a great change was noticed in the aspect of the prairies. In July the prairies were one vast flower garden; but now the grass that was then green had become brown and sere, and in place of the roses and red and white summer flowers, were wild Sunflowers, Golden Rods and Michaelmas-daisies. Heavy crops of grain just beginning to ripen were in the critical stage of development which justified the universal feeling of intense anxiety which was everywhere to be noticed. As night approached on the 18th, the wind dropped under a cloudless sky and the temperature gradually fell towards the freezing point. Never before in the history of the country had there been such promise of a bountiful harvest in Manitoba and the North-west Territories. If the frost would only keep off for another week, it was felt that a great part of the grain would be safe from injury. Everything depended on the weather; and, when after three or four days of low temperature without any appreciable injury having been done to the crop of the country, warm harvest weather again set in, the universal feeling of relief was almost indescribable.

I arrived at Brandon on the morning of the 19th, the date upon which it has been claimed that injury was done by frost; but, although there was certainly a slight hoar frost visible on the platform of the station at 5 o'clock in the morning, I noticed later in the day, that Indian corn growing close to the railway, was quite uninjured. The harvest was now in full swing at the Experimental Farm and indeed throughout Manitoba. It was a magnificent sight to look out as far as the eye could reach, upon thousands of acres of golden grain, either being cut or standing ready for the reaper.

I may here, perhaps, be permitted to mention the very evident and universal satisfaction which was expressed, both in public and in private, of the work of the Experimental Farms in the west, and of the skill, tact, and courtesy of the superintendents in charge. This was naturally, a very great pleasure to me, and I felt proud of belonging to an institution which, although a government undertaking, was recognized and fully acknowledged by all, whatever their political views might be, as an organization of the greatest value to the country.

I arrived in Winnipeg on the 20th, and spent the afternoon in the Department of Agriculture with Mr. McKellar examining weeds which had been sent in for identification. The following morning, Mr. McKellar kindly drove me down the Red River to Kildonan and Middlechurch, where the Indian Industrial School is situated. Here we crossed the river and returned to Winnipeg by the opposite