

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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THE DOMINION.

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three men, has converted a considerable acreage of entirely new land into fields resembling very closely older settled districts of Eastern Ontario. Some of these are surrounded by lock wire and movable hurdle fences. The hurdles are of wire and lumber, the same as those in use at the Guelph Agricultural College Farm. The first impression of the land in this district is disappointing, being very light-colored clay, which does not seem to bake, but when dug either dry or moist crumbles very easily. It is the general impression that on the higher ground all the vegetable matter has been burned off some time since the railroad has gone through. Had we not the evidence provided by the Pioneer Farm we would doubt its ability to produce crops, but what we saw there convinced us that there is a future for the Wabigoon country.

CLOVER SEEMS TO BE ITS HOPE.

Some ten or twelve acres of last year's seeding will produce this year some two tons per acre of clover and timothy hay. This was cut about July 15th. Some two acres of turnips were just about ready to single at the time of our visit, July 13th. Potatoes planted on June 9th were just coming into blossom. A portion of the patch had suffered from the wet, but we would predict nearly 200 bushels per acre from the appearance of the vines. The fall wheat, we were informed, came out from beneath the snow every plant alive, but late spring frosts had thinned it out considerably in spots, and we would now put the crop at from seventeen to twenty bushels per acre. It stood from two to three feet high, and was well headed. The barley on last year's breaking was out in head, and promises from twenty-five to thirty bushels per acre. Oats looked well, but will be late. These crops were all seeded with clover and timothy, and apparently every seed has grown. The season was evidently a late one. We were informed they had three inches of snow about June 5th.

Mr. Annis was busy summer-fallowing for fall wheat, and clearing and burning for this fall's breaking. Clearing is not a big job in this section, as there are large areas with little on them but a few loose snags and a sparse covering of scrubby shrubbery. There are no stones in the land except on an occasional gravelly, rocky hill, or in the purely rocky sections, which are outside the agricultural location.

We would just here correct a generally entertained wrong impression, that this is an experimental farm, though it may deserve the name in one sense, but properly speaking it is

A PIONEER FARM.

Mr. Annis was a very successful farmer in Eastern Ontario. He commenced here just as a judicious pioneer would. His house is built of logs, although very comfortable, and his barn is much like the smaller frame structures of Eastern Ontario. It has a comfortable but plain wooden basement beneath for the accommodation of the stock, which consists of seven ordinary grade cows and four yearlings; also ten Shropshire yearling

ewes and a ram, as well as a Yorkshire sow, her spring litter, and a Berkshire boar. The horse stock consists of three good general purpose workers about 1,400 pounds each. The cows pasture on new unbroken land, and are in good condition and milking well.

The three surveyed townships of Van Horne, Wainwright, and Eton are nearly all taken up by settlers at 50 cents per acre; and a fourth township, Sanford, is to be laid out. A number of them have already erected frame houses, and are clearing their land. All the ground that was seeded last year bears a good crop of grass and clover this year. Some few put in oats last spring on spring-plowed new land, but the crop was not very encouraging. These patches were seeded and the seed seemed to be all growing. The oats had considerable wild peas among them, which will along with the oats produce a quantity of fodder if the oats do not ripen. This clay land must be worked well the first year, and as soon as possible a crop of clover should be plowed down to supply vegetable matter. A number of the settlers who cannot wait for a year or two for returns from their farms are apparently neglecting to do any clearing and breaking, but are employing their teams at work for the C. P. R., etc. They have been employed to some extent by the Government building colonization roads. Some of these men express disappointment at what they have found, but they secured their farms easily, and the Pioneer Farm has proven the productiveness of the land, but naturally some persistent work must first be expended upon it.

WABIGOON'S FUTURE.

It is the general impression of the best settlers that the future of Wabigoon as an agricultural country depends now to a large extent upon the development of the adjacent gold fields. All along the south of the R. R. and around the Wabigoon Lake a large number of gold claims have been taken up. Work is being done on a number of these with very encouraging results. Already we hear of some \$30,000 claims, but this reminds us of Mark Twain's definition of a gold mine—"a hole in the ground and its owner a liar"; but Mark Twain has not yet visited the mining country of Northwest Ontario. We saw one of these holes and brought away a number of pieces of quartz showing considerable galena, copper, and (probably) gold. The presence of galena, we were told, is a good indication—(of disappointment, said the other fellow). Quartz from a number of these claims has assayed encouragingly, and a ton has been sent to Toronto for reduction. The results will be awaited with interest by many of the holders and speculators. If the mining results as it promises Wabigoon farmers will have a good home market for their produce, which will be chiefly meat and dairy products. If the mines prove a disappointment farming is not likely to be a great success, owing to its distance from market.

DRYDEN.

The village of Dryden may be described as of mushroom growth. A year ago two or three houses included all the buildings. It now has about forty houses, including three general stores, a hardware, furniture, flour and feed, and drug store. There are two taverns which are doing too much saloon trade to please the better class of citizens. A school of fifty pupils is just commencing, and a Methodist church is soon to be built. It is calculated that within the next few months from twenty to thirty houses will be erected. The place was very busy when we were there getting the station in place and building a 400-foot platform. There was also a dam being constructed across the Wabigoon River just at the head of a waterfall which drops in two sections some 34 feet, providing one of the finest water powers in America. This is just at Dryden and will in all probability be the site of a stamp mill or other works within the next few years. The immediate purpose of this dam is to raise the Wabigoon Lake some two and a half feet in order to facilitate navigation in some of the ports in other quarters of the Lake. This will give Dryden one of the finest navigation facilities on that extensive body of water. A line of steam tugs now ply upon its waters, and material for the dam was being brought in this way, as well as lumber for house building, etc. There is a small sawmill close to Dryden, which gets its logs by way of the river. The franchise of the settlers is being looked after for the next Provincial election. Sheriff Carpenter, of Rat Portage, was at Dryden the first day of our visit and put on the list the names of some 125 voters. At Wabigoon he found 100 voters.

OUR TRIP RESUMED.

After leaving Dryden the possibilities of agriculture are out of the question until Manitoba is reached. The physical features of this stretch of country resemble what we noted as prevailing for 200 miles east of Wabigoon. Rat Portage is passed in this distance. It is a live town of some 4,000 inhabitants, said to be rather quiet this summer since the mining boom of last winter. Nearly all the talk concerns gold, but most of it is of a prospective nature. A few mines are paying large dividends just now, but many good claims are awaiting capital to work them. About three miles away is Keewatin, the site of the Lake of the Woods mills and elevator. These are situated on what is considered one of the finest water powers of the world, being just at the outlet of the Lake of the

Woods. The mills have a capacity of 2,000 barrels of flour per day. They were running almost full blast at the time of our visit. Their high-grade flour from Manitoba hard wheat has a world-wide reputation and a ready sale. As we approached Winnipeg we saw a few pieces of wheat in head which looked well. Haying was in progress and the crop good. We have not yet come to the conclusion that Manitoba is the garden of the world, but what we will see within the next month may cause us to give up our Ontario claim for a home on the prairie. Winnipeg is a bustling city, bearing a businesslike, substantial appearance—about what we had expected to find.

J. B. S.
Winnipeg, July 17th.

Western Development as Viewed by a Prominent Ontario Agriculturist.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—Being desirous of acquiring a more intelligent knowledge of this Western country, its physical features, the system of farming carried out, its resources and possibilities, the social life of the people in the sparsely settled portions, and, above all, its suitability as a home for the surplus farming population of the East, I had resolved some time ago to so arrange my business as would admit of my taking a two months' pleasure trip between Winnipeg and the Pacific coast. In 1894 six weeks were spent in taking in all the leading places on the main line between Winnipeg and Calgary, and the country north of the last named town to Edmonton, as well as visiting to some extent the ranching country to the south. Besides taking in the localities mentioned, four days were spent in travelling through that part of the Province lying south of Brandon. With the knowledge acquired at that time added to what I hoped to gain by observation, mixing much with the people, and information to be gathered from many sources on this occasion, I trusted to be able to return home to my own Province feeling that I had a pretty good general knowledge of this great part of our Dominion. One of the difficulties found this time, as on the two former occasions when here, is the vastness of the territory to be travelled over. On the last of the two former visits I had to turn back before getting to the end of my proposed journey, time not admitting of my remaining any longer. This time, however, I was bound to see the Pacific and the towns and cities on the coast. With that end in view, after a few days spent in Winnipeg, I took train for the coast, not stopping anywhere until Victoria was reached.

Now, Mr. Editor, do not think that I am going to attempt to inflict on you or the readers of your journal an account of that trip. I know well that you keep a waste-paper basket convenient to your hand at all times. What I do purpose doing is, from the standpoint of an Ontario farmer, to give you the views and impressions left on my mind after spending considerable time in the Province of Manitoba, visiting it in many places, and seeing many sections which varied in regard to soil and local conditions. Driving through its farms, inspecting the fields, studying the systems of farming (for, as in other countries, there is more than one system followed), considering the nature of the soil, climatic conditions, and the probable markets of the future.

At the outset I wish it to be distinctly understood that I do not presume in the slightest degree to pose as a teacher. As I said before, the primary object in coming to this country was to have a pleasure trip. Next to that, I hoped, and may say, knew, that it would be instructive to myself personally, and possibly, as the result of observation and knowledge acquired by mixing with the people, I may be enabled to make some suggestions which will give food for thought. If farmers, speaking in a general way, have one failing more than another, it is that they have developed in a very strong degree the idea that they know all that is worth knowing about their own profession, and are too apt to jump to the conclusion that every man's practice that differs from their own must of a certainty be wrong. I trust that I shall keep clear of this error. Having said so much, we, however, will agree on this, that there are certain general principles which underlie successful agriculture wherever it is followed; and further, that the successful farmer will be the man who will be ready to adapt himself to changed conditions when they do arise. I have been three times in this country; twice I have had special opportunities of studying agriculture as here practiced, and have no hesitation in saying that a great many farmers, considering general and local conditions, were and are making the best of their opportunities. However, it is in the best interests of the farmer and the country that it be fully realized that conditions which have ruled in the past are fast changing. In the earlier days the land was comparatively clear of weeds, excepting in some sections, such as the older settled portions of the Red River valley, and it appeared safe to go on grain growing without much thought for the future. Now that is all changed. The land both in the Territories and in large sections of Manitoba is in danger of becoming absolutely foul with weeds, and it is only a question of a short time when many of these farmers will no longer be able to grow a paying crop. This is no fancy picture. It has taken place on some of the rich and fertile wheat-growing lands around Indian Head, and unless some check is given to it the same state of