

Yorkshire friend, as I was told on the best authority, is reaping a rich reward of his skill and industry.

I was much surprised to find among the Manitoban farmers one for my old Cirencester pupils. He had bought a farm of some 400 acres a few miles west of Winnipeg, paying, as was thought, the extravagant price of \$20 (£4) per acre. He declared to me that he had the best farm in the locality, which may be taken as evidence of his being satisfied with it; and he was growing crops of turnips, potatoes, oats, etc., which were already a theme of conversation in the Province; this was done by better cultivation than the land of Manitoba is used to, and it is clear that the soil will produce almost any kind of crop in a very satisfactory way, providing it is properly attended to. And yet, how can we expect the rank and file of farmers to cultivate the soil carefully in a country which has such a superb abundance of magnificent land still unoccupied? In time, no doubt, better farming will prevail; and I hope my old pupil will set an example which will be worth extensive imitation; but at present land is too cheap and plentiful to admit of microscopic cultivation, as we have it in England and Scotland.

The chief drawbacks in Manitoba, in the estimation of an Englishman, are these: Bad roads, bad water in many parts, the almost utter absence of trees except on the rivers' banks, the flatness of the country and the long and severe winter. (And these remarks apply with even greater force to large tracts of country I have seen in the north-western portion of the United States.) No doubt the roads in time will be improved, though road-metal is very scarce; good water will be obtained in most parts of the country by boring for it; this, indeed, is already being done; trees will be planted to break the monotony of the scene; and so far as the winters are concerned, I am assured by those whose testimony is worthy of all trust, that the mercury may go to 30° below zero, yet the cold is not intolerable, but rather pleasant and bracing, *because the air is dry*. The flat low-lying land in the vicinity of Winnipeg has hitherto been much flooded in spring time, but an extensive and well-executed system of large open drains, which is now being carried out at the cost of the Government, will greatly diminish the evil, if not entirely remove it. There are other districts needing similar treatment, and, as the land is of excellent quality, they will receive attention in due time.

In the city of Winnipeg every household and personal requisite can be bought at not unreasonable rates; and, above all, agricultural tools and machinery of a character superior to the general run of such things in England, are everywhere abundant. It is, in fact, one of the sights most suggestive of reflection, to notice at the railway stations, here and there, and at the dealers' stores, abundant supplies of labor-saving implements and machinery, which are cheaper, handier and better made than many English goods. The cost of living is not very high; beef, by the side, in winter is about 7c. a lb.; beefsteaks in summer, 15c.; mutton in winter about 12c., and butter about 25c. the year round. Eggs in winter are 35c. a dozen.

The great features of Manitoba are: Land of excellent quality, very low in price, and in great abundance, and a climate that brings to perfection, in a short time, all kinds of cultivated crops. The value of land is \$1 (4s.) to \$10 (£2) an acre, away in the country, while near the city, in some cases, it is still higher. Out in the North-West Territory, however, the finest land can be bought at a dollar or less per acre, and actual settlers can obtain free grants of 160 acres for each adult, with a pre-emption right to 160 more on payment of a nominal sum to Government. I cannot, however, recommend English farmers of middle age to go there to settle, because they are entirely unsuited to pioneer life, and would have much to unlearn before they could learn the ways of the country; but young men with small capital and strong hearts and willing hands, even though they have been reared amidst the comforts of an English home, are sure to prosper in the new territory, providing they are steady and industrious. Being young, they are not too closely wedded to certain habits of life, and they would the more easily habituate themselves to the new conditions which they would encounter in the new country. But whoever may go to Manitoba from the Old Country, will do well to have a good look around before buy-