

### Review—Manitoba and the North-West of the Dominion.

We hail with great pleasure the many enquiries for information respecting the several provinces of Canada. The interest manifested by people so widely separated in all that concerns their fellow countrymen and their prospects, is the best omen of a perpetual acting in all matters with perfect accord as befitting one people. To meet these enquiries, and even anticipate them as much as possible, a portion of the *ADVOCATE* has been especially set apart, and no pains will be spared to render full of interest at all times our "Canadian Agricultural Notes." The great North-West is of deep interest not only to us Canadians, but to others also who may be thinking of migrating to our shores. A pamphlet by Thomas Spence, on Manitoba and the North-West of the Dominion, we have examined carefully, and though we may hold different views from the author on some points, we think it a very valuable hand-book for intending emigrants, whether from the older parts of the Dominion or Europe. Passing over the preface and introduction for the present, we will come at once into the land of promise. The great extent of excellent land immediately available for the labors of the farmer is a very interesting feature of the country. Neither in the United States nor in any other country is there such an uninterrupted stretch of rich soil awaiting the hand of the husbandman. In that valley four hundred thousand farms may be meted out, of one hundred acres each. The author of "Manitoba" says: "The area of rich soil and pasturage which we possess in the valleys of the Assiniboine and Saskatchewan alone is about 40,000,000 acres, of which about 18,000,000 acres are at once available for the agriculturist, and this land is black with richness." In such a territory there must be room for a very large population; and yet, according to the last official census, the population of the Province of Manitoba was 11,961. This was in 1870, and there has been since that a considerable immigration, though retarded no little by the want of direct railway communication with the older provinces.

This want of direct inter-communication through British territory is the great obstacle to emigrants. There have been repeated complaints of attempts made, and too often successfully, by Americans to induce parties going by the American R. R. to stop short of their destination, and by this means intending Canadian colonists have been diverted from their purpose. Repeatedly has this interference been referred to by our correspondents. 'Tis true there is also the Government Summer Route, but by it the journey occupies so much time, and the hardships of the route have been so great, that few take that route who can avoid it.

The fertility of the soil is pretty well known to our readers. We will merely give very brief extracts on this subject. "The average yield of wheat in Manitoba, deduced from the aggregate of local estimates, is twenty-five bushels to the acre, the range of ordinary yields being from fifteen to twenty-five. The weight of Manitoba spring wheat, 63 to 66 lbs. to the bushel. The soundness and fullness of the grain is unmistakably indicated by the fact that it will command a higher price than any Western State grain, when it goes to market unmixed and well cleaned.

"Barley is a favorite alternative of wheat in Manitoba, and yields enormous returns, with a weight per bushel of from 50 to 55 pounds. Oats also thrive well. Potatoes—the well-known principle established by climatologists that cultivated plants yield their greatest and best products near the northernmost limits of their growth, applies with equal force to the production of potatoes with

us. The mealy quality, the snowy whiteness, the farinaceous properties, and the exquisite flavor which distinguish the best article, reach perfection only in high latitudes. The potatoes grown in Manitoba are well known to be unsurpassed in all the qualities named, while their prolific yield is not less remarkable." Turnips, parsnips, carrots, beets and nearly all bulbous plants do equally as well as potatoes.

### A Canadian International Exhibition.

It has been decided to hold an International Exhibition at Toronto during the summer months of 1878. For the purpose of sufficiently carrying out the project a sum of \$500,000 is being raised by subscription, of which it is proposed to raise \$250,000 in 12,500 shares of \$20.00, and the balance with the assistance of the Government and railway companies. The success of the Centennial Exhibition, so much greater than what had been anticipated, encourages the projectors of this Canadian enterprise. True, the United States are many years ahead of Canada in national growth, but it must also be taken into consideration that the great success attending that Exhibition was in no small degree owing to foreign exhibitors, and if the Canadian undertaking be supported with proper spirit by Canadians, we may reasonably expect the same causes of success to operate in our favor. That the Dominion itself can form the nucleus of a great International Exhibition has been proved by the success of so great a number of Canadian exhibitors at Philadelphia, where in so many classes they carried off the highest prizes from a people who had the advantage of contending on their own ground. The new High Park, having an area of 400 acres, west of Toronto, can be had for the purpose free of expense, and the main building could be constructed with a view to its remaining permanent. An Exhibition as proposed would doubtless be beneficial to all the industrial interests in the country. It would be a stimulus to manufacturing and mercantile business, and not less to agriculture, and make the capabilities of the country more widely known.

### Shall We Discontinue Growing Wheat?

The motto of the successful farmer, as well as of other men who must succeed in any business, has ever been *persevere*. We are not to hang down our wearied hands, though we may have for a season been unsuccessful in our pursuits. The midge or the beetle, or must, or rust, may have taken the tith of our crop, or may even have left to us only the tith. Shall we in consequence let our field lie fallow, and in our despondency forsake agriculture;—or rather shall we not with redoubled energy pursue our work, knowing that the ingenuity of man is more than sufficient to overcome the obstacles that seem to forbid his success? Difficulties in the pursuit of our calling, obstacles that retard our progress, serve but to stimulate to greater exertions the man who will succeed.

"It is quite evident from the facts presented that our most important cereal, wheat, has had its day in this country." This is the language of a writer in the agricultural columns of a contemporary. Mountains of difficulties seem to shut out from his view any feature of our farming prospects but such as are most gloomy and disheartening. The production of fall wheat is becoming precarious! Competition from the antipodes! India and California are exporting immense quantities of splendid wheat into England! These are the prospects presented by this writer to the wheat growers in Canada.

For barley growers the prospect he presents is almost equally gloomy, and the growth of peas, though at present remunerative, is also threatened

with collapse and failure. But to the growing of these cereals, and to the question of raising stock—horses and beef—on a large scale, we will return again.

From the opinion expressed that wheat has had its day in this country we wholly dissent. Fairly remunerative crops, good in quantity and quality, can be grown even on the old farms of Ontario. The season of 1876 was very unfavorable throughout the country for farming. The crops were generally under the average, and the samples, taken as a whole, of inferior quality; but there were exceptions not a few. Let us examine some that we may ascertain the cause of the falling off in many.

In the county of Middlesex Mr. J.'s wheat yielded over twenty-five bushels per acre, the quality was A 1, and he sold it at a high figure; while neighboring farmers were complaining that the produce of their wheat fields was not more than half the produce of his, and their grain was of a low grade. Was it merely good luck that caused the difference? Let us see! Mr. J. spared neither labor nor expense in the preparation of the soil or the procuring of good seed. The ground was not exhausted. It possessed the elements requisite for the growing and maturing of the crop. The ground was well cultivated, not merely surface scratched. The seed was of the best quality, of a variety lately introduced, and at a comparatively high price. The crop was reaped at the proper time—not too late, nor yet too early; and last, though not least, it was thoroughly cleaned from light grains and seeds of weeds. Result—Mr. J. does not say that wheat has had its day in this country.

If, on the contrary, farmers scarcely scratch the surface of an exhausted plot of land, be very careful to procure "cheap" seed, sow and cover it carelessly, reap the crop when perhaps ill-colored and fibry from being *over-ripe*; clean it badly that they may have the greater number of bushels for the market, we need be at no loss for *data* to know why the cry is now heard—*Wheat has had its day in this country*.

It is true the wheat grower now has more to do in order to raise good crops than he had some years since. The country has been deprived of the shelter of the old forests. We have but little remaining of the rich, dark, virgin soil, and its fertility has not been restored from other sources, but we can and we do raise good crops of wheat.

Let us by no means give up sowing wheat, fearing that it has had its day, but let it not be our sole reliance. Let us not cease sowing barley though a large quantity may be awaiting buyers; feed all inferior barley to stock on your farm, and No. 1 barley will have a good market; let us continue sowing peas and oats, and let us feed stock for market and dairy. In a word, let our farming be diversified. Seasons differ—demand for products and prices vary. Be prepared for the demand whatever it may be.

The *Jewish Messenger* calls attention to the increasing fondness for furs and woollens and warm winter garments. It will soon, he thinks, be difficult to tell a New Yorker in full winter toggery from a Laplander or Russian. The winters are more severe than in former years, and we dress more warmly, yet colds, and coughs, and such diseases connected with the lungs, are prevalent. More people die of consumption and lung complaints than in former years, with all those improvements in clothing and hygiene. It looks as if mankind was growing weaker, that they need more clothes, more generous diet, greater care, and larger doctor's bills than ever before.

This is only partially true in Canada; indeed, if applicable at all to us, it is almost wholly confined to the towns. But there is sufficient ground for it