

figure, they are not likely to be here but a very short time before they have a husband and a home of their own in this land where there are four or five men for each woman. A few cooks could also get situations now. But in the spring, so as to reach here any time in the latter part of April, and after, all through the season, you can send along as many labourers, farm hands, and men to take up farms as you please, with the full assurance that they need not be idle five minutes after getting here, unless of their own accord. A fairly liberal sprinkling of mechanics will be wanted; and just to give you an idea of the demand for girls, I may say that one of our city papers estimated that if 1,000 were to come here they could all be provided with situations. Many of the men come here without means, work for a year or so till they have saved a little money, and then take up farms; and when the land has only to be turned over to raise crops of 30 to 35 bushels of wheat, 40 of barley and peas, 50 to 60 of oats, 300 to 400 of potatoes, and 500 to 800 of roots, and from 2½ to 4 tons of hay per acre, and I don't know of anything to pay them much better. I know of men who started here three years ago with nothing, and putting in a little on their farm the first spring and working out the remainder of the year, who have now made enough to have paid off any debt they had contracted, and had their living and put up a comfortable little house, and, in addition to having a farm they would not sell for less than four to six thousand dollars, have some money in the bank, not to mention the stock and implements they have become possessed of in the meantime.

The following extract from a letter that appeared in the press recently from a gentleman well acquainted with the country bears upon this point:—

I am sure it will be within your knowledge that many erroneous ideas prevail respecting the climate of the parts of Canada referred to. As a matter of fact, it does not differ from that of Minnesota, Dakota, and others of the Western States. Fruits and other produce that are grown in the latter can be raised in Manitoba and the North-West Territories, and it may not be generally known that wild hops, and fruits such as strawberries, raspberries, gooseberries, and cherries, grow most luxuriantly there. The hops are used to make yeast by the settlers, and the fruits are preserved. . . . I can conscientiously state, after an experience of eight years, that the former (Manitoba) is undoubtedly healthy and favourable for general agricultural operations.

As a cattle district . . . by housing in the winter, there is nothing to prevent cattle being successfully raised in any part of Canada or the North-West Territories. Last winter, when thousands of cattle died from exposure in Montana territory (United States), our cattle on the Canadian side around Fort McLeod wintered out, and were reported to be in excellent condition. . . .

In Manitoba a homestead exemption law was passed in 1872, which exempts from seizure for debt 160 acres of land, house, stables, barns, furniture, tools, farm implements in use, one cow, two oxen, one horse, four sheep, two pigs, and 30 days' provender for same.