

THE GROWING WEST.

BY ALLEN WEST.

(Continued.)

The West Is Like a Family to Mr. Whyte.

"To me the West is like a family.

"Eighteen years building railroads out there and seeing the settler's hut grow to a house, the house to a hamlet, the hamlet to a town, and some of the towns grow to cities, each time I go over the road, noting the progress of each place, is like a father watching the growth of his child from infancy to youth and to full energy."

"What has the C.P.R. done for settlers?"

"We have done a great deal more than give them cheap rates. But cheap rates have done their part. When I first went West I found that settlers would like to come East once in a while, and so we established the system of lowering the rate toward the Christmas holidays to less than one fare for the round trip. We have benefited greatly, both directly and indirectly. These people take advantage of the opportunity to visit their homes, and to give glowing accounts of Western Canada."

When the Settler Comes to Winnipeg.

"What does the Canadian Pacific do for a farmer?"

"Well, a farmer comes to Winnipeg looking for land. He hears, perhaps, that the Canadian Pacific has large interests in land. He enquires for the Land Office. He is directed there. He enters the office, and says he wants to take up new land."

"Any particular locality?"

"Yes, at such and such a point," he replies.

"He is shown samples of wheat, oats, vegetables and grasses. He is shown field notes of various localities. Every possible information is furnished to enable him to purchase intelligently."

"You enable the farmer to study Western Canada, but do you study the farmer?"

"Of course."

"How?"

"By asking him what kind of farm he had and why he left it. If the answer seems to lead one to think that he did the best he could under the circumstances, some consideration, some special encouragement is given, not in the price of the land, but in helping him."

No Lazy Men Need Apply.

"If not so?"

"If we find a man is lazy, that he got into debt and made a failure where other people made a success, though he may take up land he will require watching to see he makes his payments. Of course, every man doesn't run in luck. He may have as fine a looking field of wheat as one would care to see, and to-morrow a hailstorm destroys it. Then he would probably be unable to meet his next payment. We could, of course, cancel his contract, and he would be the loser, forfeiting the money paid."

"But we would not do that."

"We are not a land company, but a transportation company. So we do what we can to help the man along. We don't press him for his next instalment."

The C.P.R. is a Shrewd Philanthropist.

"We have also, when wheat has been low, bought farmers' wheat, paying more for it than he could get from any wheat or milling concern, storing the wheat in our elevators at Fort William, hoping for an advance in the spring. Sometimes the advance comes and sometimes it doesn't."

"That is the terrible part of it."

"There are for the farmer elements of uncertainty which cannot be wholly eliminated, and, realizing this, we stand ready to do everything we can for the farmer who deserves to succeed."

"For instance, we experiment in all different kinds of wheat—Red Fyfe wheat we found to be best. There are two kinds, red and white, but the red is highest in the gluten, which all bakers want."

Sir William Van Horne as a Farmer.

"In the early days of Manitoba, when little land was cultivated, frost was a menace, and we used to seek wheat that would mature early and escape the frosts of late summer and early autumn."

"Sir William Van Horne and myself used to drive out among the farms, getting farmers to take and hold for seed stronger and heavier wheat that had matured early. It was the habit of farmers to sell their best wheat and save the poorest for seed. Of course, it is poor policy for a farmer to plant seed that will be slow to germinate and productive of an unprofitable crop. So we have given considerable attention to educating the farmer to a knowledge of seed, and have been aided materially by Dr. Saunders, manager of the Agricultural Experiment Farm at Indian Head."

C.P.R. Seed Bulletins and Free Seed Hauling.

"The C.P.R. issues bulletins to farmers, suggesting they seek earlier heads to pluck and maintain for seed; and also, the road hauls seed wheat for the farmer free of charge."

"We encourage thrift among farmers. Thrift is indicated by the appearance of the buildings."

"When I see a farmhouse and the outer buildings nicely painted I know that I will find that farmer's implements and machinery well taken care of. Money invested in paint and in keeping up the property is just as good as money in the bank."

"When I see a farmer neglecting to paint his house I feel sure he is neglecting other things."

Rusty Machinery, Mortgages and Overworked Farms.

"The farmer that lets his machinery and farm implements rust from neglect is the kind who lets a mortgage settle on the place, while the thrifty farmer has money in the bank earning interest."

"The farmer who works his land to death is as bad as the farmer who works his horse or his wife to death."

"Every farm should lie fallow one year in three, or a third of it should be idle one year in three. That is necessary to keep it in good health. It must have one summer to recuperate its energies after two summers of work. A farm is no different from a man in needing rest."

"The land takes its energy from the sun, and the sun must be given a chance to pour its vitality into the soil and fill it up with energy just as water must be poured back into a reservoir when it has been pumped out. There is no success in a played-out farm or a played-out man."

The Superficial Farmer is Not a Success.

"Another kind of farmer who does not succeed is he who farms superficially."

"Success does not lie on the surface, where it is easy to get at. A farmer has to dig down into the ground to find any success that is worth having. He must put brains and toil into the soil as well as seed in order to take anything out of the soil that is worth while."

"The farmer is a failure who just turns the sod over and tries to get a crop without deep plowing. He has done the worst possible for his land. The turned-over sod keeps the sun and the rain from penetrating the ground. Heat will penetrate a porous soil, but not a solid soil. The more land is cultivated, the more heat and moisture it will take in, and heat and moisture make profitable production."

The Bigoted Britisher and the Watering Carts.

"Another farmer who finds it hard to succeed is the man who comes from the Old Country set in certain ideas as to farming—ideas which were good hundreds of years ago, but are now out of date or not adapted to Western Canada."

"Some of these men are so bigoted they will not

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