

# THE HARD WHEAT BELT

## Swan River, Gilbert Plains and Dauphin District.

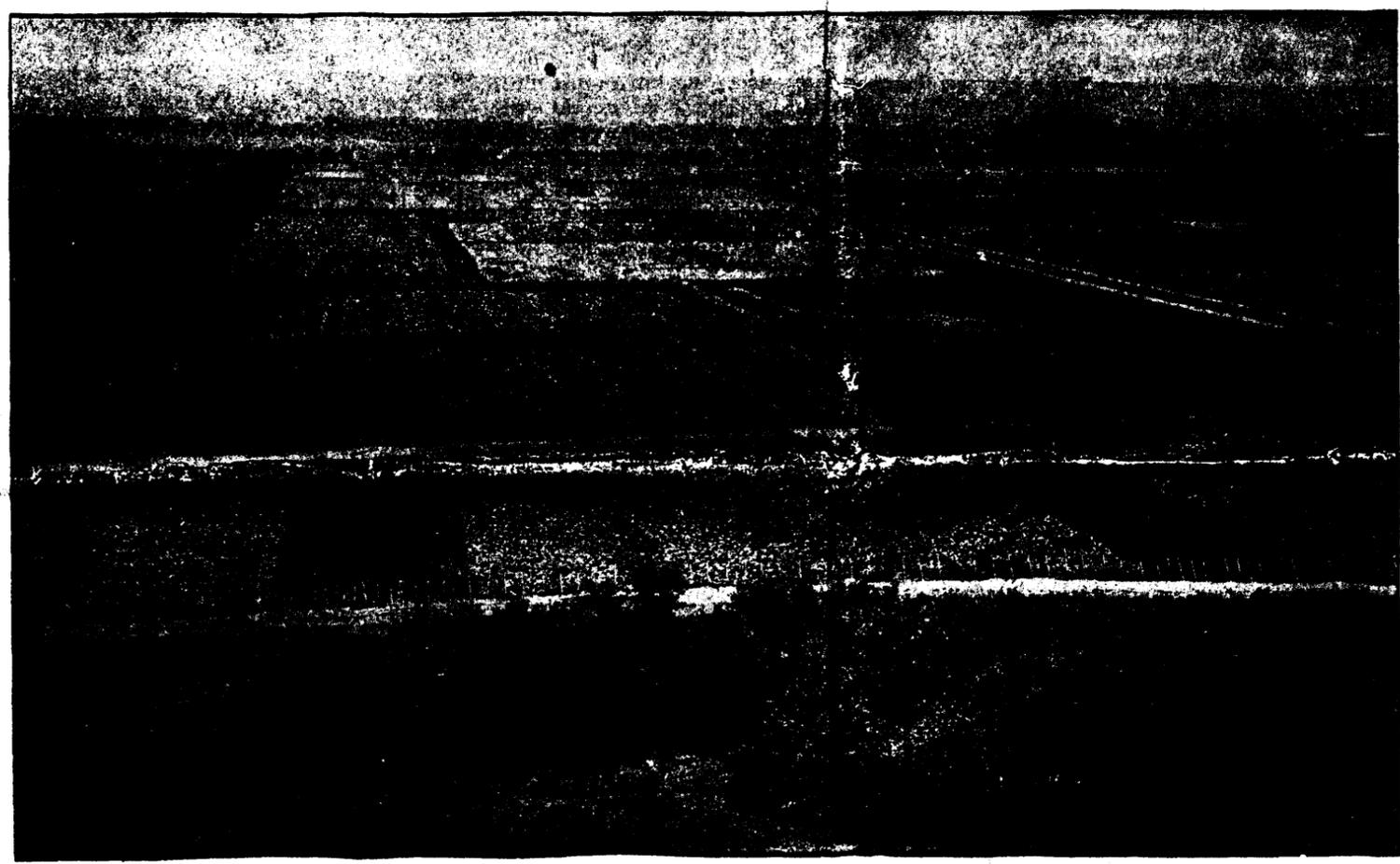
At the present time a great many enquiries are made for information about the Dauphin, Gilbert Plains and Swan River Districts. The rush of settlers for the past two years has nearly filled up the available homesteads in the Dauphin and Gilbert Plains districts. A few home-

The soil in the Swan River district is similar to that in the Dauphin district. The elevation in range 28 is 1160 feet the same as the gravel ridges twelve miles west of Dauphin station. It is equal in every way to the Dauphin district for settlement and is admitted, by all who know, to have a greater area in one block, fit for settlement than the Dauphin district proper has. It is protected on the west and north by the Porcupine Mountains which reach an elevation of 2500 feet, while the Swan River valley is from 860 to 1400 feet above the sea level. On the south and east are the Duck Mountains which also reach an altitude of 2500 feet. The Swan river district is therefore a valley or plateau between two mountains. These mountains are covered with forests of timber. The valley is well

### A STATEMENT AND INFORMATION OF THE SWAN RIVER DISTRICT.

FROM MAY 1ST TO DECEMBER 1ST, 1898.

Number of Homestead Entries taken	290
Homesteads Purchased	8
Squatters on Homestead Land	111
Homesteads applied for	86
Homesteads for Doukhoborts in tp. 34-34; 35-34; 36-33 and all in rge. 29	111
Total	606
Number of Squatters on surveyed homestead land:	
In Tp. 34, Rge. 29-21	In Tp. 35, Rge. 28-20
“ 34, “ 28-45	“ 36, “ 25-3
“ 35, “ 26-7	“ 37, “ 27-3
Total	99
Number of Squatters on unsurveyed homestead land:	
In Tp. 34, Rge. 27-1	In Tp. 37, Rge. 25-4
“ 37, “ 25-2	“ 38, “ 27-7
Total	12



SOME TEST PLOTS ON BRANDON EXPERIMENTAL FARM, INDICATING THE SYSTEMATIC EFFORTS MADE TO HELP THE FARMERS OF WESTERN CANADA.

steads may still be obtained, although somewhat remote from the railroad. Desirable railroad lands can here be purchased at from \$3.00 per acre upwards, payable in ten annual instalments. During the past season the Winnipeg and Great Northern Railway was extended from Sifton station, on the line between Dauphin and Winnipegosis, in a northwesterly direction to the gravel ridge at Fork river; thence following the ridge northward to a point two miles north of the North Duck river. The rails have been laid to this point, and a regular weekly train service given. In 1899 the road will be extended northward some four miles, thence due west about twenty miles crossing the Rolling river; thence north crossing the Swan river and thence north east about equally distant from the Porcupine Mountains and Swan Lake. Present surveys indicate that this is the route to be taken. This road when completed will give a splendid service to settlers in all parts of the Swan river district. The object of the detour in the line (20 miles due west) is to secure a suitable and easy crossing of the Swan River. Even at this point, the river is 125 feet wide and the banks 25 feet high, From this point northward the river has a fall of 200 feet in 30 miles.

watered by rivers, the Swan river being the largest. All the streams have timber belts along the banks which supply logs for building purposes and also firewood. The district already surveyed includes Township 34 in Ranges 28 and 29, Township 35 in Ranges 26, 27, 28 and 29, Township 36 in Ranges 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 and 29, Township 37 in Range 27. No doubt surveys will be pushed rapidly the coming season, when it is expected that the greater part of the district will be homesteaded and many sections of railroad lands purchased and settled upon. The settlements will extend northwards along the line of railway until all the land fit for settlement, from the foot of the Porcupine Mountains to the shores of Swan Lake, will be occupied. A colony of the Doukhobors is locating in Townships 34, 35, and 36, Ranges 29, 30 and 31; three townships in Manitoba, two in Assiniboia and four in Saskatchewan. A number of settlers have located in the Swan River district the past season. What has been done can best be learned from the following report of the Dominion Lands Agent, Mr. H. Harley, who has been located in the district during the past summer:

Homesteads applied for:  
Mr. Fred Ford, Minnesota, tp 36, rge 29.....32  
Mr. B. O. Monsees, Missouri, tp 37 & 38, rge 27.....24  
Mr. Joseph Kinsky, Bohemia, tp 34, rge 29.....14  
Mr. M. Abrahamson, London, Eng., tp 34, rge 29.....16  
Total.....86  
Number of Hay Permits issued.....4  
Number of Homesteads that will be open for entry for 1899:  
Tp. 34, Rge. 28-20      Tp. 37, Rge. 27-24  
“ 35, “ 28-19      “ 35, “ 26-31  
“ 36, “ 28-44      “ 36, “ 26-23  
“ 35, “ 27-15      “ 36, “ 25-30  
“ 36, “ 27-36      “ 36, “ 24-65  
Total.....307  
The total population, December 1st, was 208; of this number 25 were married women, and 68 children.  
The population for the homesteads taken and applied for is 1417, (the Doukhoborts not included).  
Sixty-five per cent. (65%) of the new settlers are Canadians; the next highest in numbers are English, Scotch, Irish, Americans, Icelanders, Welsh, Danes, Belgians and Swedes.  
Settlers that have taken up homesteads, who are still in Ontario, 62; in the States, 4.  
Persons that have applied for homesteads, who are still in the United States, 56.