

THE CHIGNECTO POST
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FARM AND HOUSEHOLD.

—The man who buys the wood burned by the Maine Central Railroad says that wood is growing faster than it is cut in Maine.

—A piano thoroughly soaked in Ohio River water during the flood, when thoroughly dried was found to be greatly improved in tone.

—To drill holes in glass, take a good steel drill and wet with a saturated solution of camphor in oil of turpentine. It is said that holes may be rapidly drilled in this way through the thickest plate glass.

—The London Gardener's Chronicle says that 1888 will long be remembered as the "apple year" in England; never before in that country was there anything approaching the extraordinary crop of this important and useful fruit.

—A prominent agriculturist says that the garden as it ought to be is the most profitable part of the farm. It should have fifteen to twenty varieties of vegetables, from the early and appetizing green of asparagus, to potatoes which last all the year.

—M. Lalonde, Deputy of the Gironde, is one of the French statesmen who favor the importation of American pork. "Allow me to congratulate you on being a friend of the transatlantic hog," said a caller to him. "Oh, no," he replied; "I am his worst enemy. I would like to kill and eat him."

—The Breeder's Gazette says: The Indiana Blooded-Stock Association is the title of a company lately organized, with a capital stock of \$200,000. It is proposed to handle Aberdeen-Angus and Hereford cattle. The company will have 2,000 acres of land, four miles from Indianapolis, and about 600 head as a permanent herd.

—Mr. James Hoyt, a recent convert to horsemanship, tells *The N. E. Farmer* that, after a few months' experience in the care and handling of a herd of some twenty polo cattle he is ready to endorse all that the admirers of this kind of stock are likely to claim for it. He thinks that, other things being equal, the cows will do about one-fifth better than those with the worse than useless excrescence, "being so much more quiet and kindly in their dispositions."

—Large quantities of ashes are made at the lime kilns at Rockland and Thomaston, Me. They are known as "lime ashes." Soft wood is used in burning the lime, and of course there comes a large amount of ash. Mixed with the ashes are small crumbly bits of wood which increase the bulk. These are sold at a low price, some twenty cents a barrel, and afford a cheap fertilizer for the farmers of the vicinity. They are especially prized for application to clay loam grass lands.

—The following is given by *The Maine Farmer* as an illustration of "what is meant by care." "The owner was watering his large herd of cows. There, said he, as he stepped along and placed his arm gently over the neck of one more timid than the three others which were drinking at the trough, 'I have less help quite likely would let this one turn backward and go to the stall again, claiming that she had the offer of water but she did not want to drink. She is afraid of the others,' he continued, 'but by me standing here by her side, she will drink with the others, and as heartily as any of them.'"

—Mrs. Fanny Field, after a fair trial of the leading preparations sold as "egg food," discarded them all. Her dependence for winter supplies on an exceptionally comfortable poultry-house and the liberal rations, including raw cabbage and fine rowen (the latter steamed or soaked in warm water and sprinkled with corn meal or wheat bran) fed on alternate days; and meat, especially especially warmed milk. She tells *The Prairie Farmer* that giving this drink in unlimited quantity is one of the open secrets of her remarkable success, not only in making hens lay during the cold months, but in raising extra spring chickens.

—The National Stockman thinks the following is the best method of curing "lung beef": "A good fat beef's rounds should be cut into pieces parallel with the bone, weighing from four to six pounds, according to the size of the hind quarter. These pieces should be salted by a judicious expert just as much as would be used in cooking the same. They should then be strung with the ordinary meat needle and twice, and hung up in the smoke-house, or any dry outbuilding, where the pieces dried in cold weather, when there are no flies, are cut in thin slices and broiled on the cross-bars over live charcoal. Few dishes equal it. It may be eaten also raw when well dried."

—Danger Traps. Neglected cows are the traps that ensnare many a victim before the possibility of rescue. Take a cold or cough in time and it is easily conquered by that safe and pleasant vegetable remedy, Haygard's Eucalypti Balsam. Asthma, Bronchitis and pulmonary complaints generally soon yield to its healing influence.

CHIGNECTO POST.

Reserve Success and you shall Command it.

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SACKVILLE, N. B., THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 1884.

WHOLE NO. 720.

MR. FERGUSON'S OPINION.

Graphic Description of the North-West.

Mr. Ferguson, Member of Parliament for North Leeds and Grenville, delivered a speech in Parliament on the debate on the Pacific Railway resolutions, which is interesting and valuable in giving a reliable account of what he himself saw in a two-months trip in the North-West; and we give to our readers extracts showing the opportunities Mr. Ferguson had for forming a correct opinion, and what that opinion of the North-West Territories is:

"It has been remarked that some of those who had spoken favorably of that country had gone up there on fast trains and on a free pass. Well, I visited that country, and I went up on neither. I went up on a purchased buck-board, bought with my own money. In about two months I traversed over 2,000 miles of the prairie country; consequently, I can speak from personal observation, and more than that, I want the House to understand that I am speaking as a thoroughly practical farmer—indeed, I am almost egotistical enough to say, in that respect the character of the soil. I would put my judgment against that of any hon. gentleman in the House. In the few remarks I propose to make upon the Northwest country, I shall speak as a practical farmer. I went there neither as a speculator nor as a tourist, but with a view to satisfy myself of the agricultural capabilities of the country of which I had heard and read so much. I can venture this assertion, and I do it without fear of contradiction successfully, that it will yet be found, and in a very early period, that the great GRAIN AND FOOD PRODUCING REGION is west of Moose Jaw. (Hear, hear.) As I said before, I have travelled over the country on a buck-board, leisurely, going where pleased, and I was not confined to the railway and looking out of car windows, as was attributed to many hon. members by the hon. member for Perth. I saw west of Moose Jaw, west of Medicine Hat, and south of Calgary, as fine wheat lands, and barley grown on the Indian farms and on the farms of some settlers who had been there for some fifteen or sixteen years, as I have seen grown in the most favored agricultural districts of Ontario, and I think I live in one of the best of them. As to the district between Moose Jaw and Medicine Hat, of which we have heard so much as being a barren desert, many who have gone over the country, try to go on a mistake as to its character. The hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Rose), the other night explained to some extent the cause of that misapprehension, saying that it was owing to the character and color of the grass. The country, for a couple of hundred miles, is covered with buffalo grass. Many hon. members do not know exactly what that is; I did not till I went out there. It is not long, wavy, bunchy grass, but short grass, not more than three to five inches in length, and owing to the early spring, it matures in the first part of June. It cures on its foot and turns white. It does not burn, but simply ripens on its stalk; and a farmer who has driven a pair of horses over it for a month, with no fodder except that grass, must know that it is nothing else than matured hay. There is sufficient moisture in the soil to produce a new crop by the 1st of August. That crop grows to a height of two inches if burnt over, and four inches where it is not burnt over. It is simply because the season is so much earlier than it is in Ontario that persons unaccustomed and looking from the face of the country, misapprehend the character of the province.

THE FUEL AND BUILDING MATERIAL. Mention is made of people leaving there on the ground that there is neither fuel nor building material. I will confine my remarks chiefly to Alberta, regarding which the hon. member of Marquette (Mr. Watson) should have informed himself before he addressed the House. As to wood, there is not much in that country, but nature through its wisdom, has compensated that district by supplying an almost unlimited quantity of coal. The result of my observation is that I can unhesitatingly state that in the whole Province of Alberta I saw no place, nor do I believe there is a locality, where a farmer with his own cart need haul fuel more than a distance of five miles, and in half the cases within that distance. As to building material, as far west as Brandon—I am now coming back to Manitoba—I know good building material. American pine and our own Rat Portage pine, is sold within a few cents per thousand as cheaply as it can be purchased to-day in the lumber yards at Ottawa. (Cheers.) I saw as good siding for buildings sold retail to hundreds of people at \$25 per thousand, as you see in the Ottawa market to-day. Doors, frames and window sashes, with glass, can be bought even cheaper than in Ottawa.

Mr. Watson—I never saw good siding sold in that country at the prices named.

As to the water supply. There are places in that country where water is scarce, and it is in that district beyond Moose Jaw. It is not that there is not water in the soil. Here is the difficulty: All over that region there are immense deposits of pure tenacious clay, almost pure alumina, that is, clay without any porosity whatever, and so the water only permeates the gravel beds. When you find a district thus overlaid, you will find no water except surface water—but you will find lakes from 100 to 100 acres on this clay—until you reach a gravel bed; but these districts are very few and scarce. Mention has been made of a locality where the railway company went 300 feet to find water. They did that to suit their own convenience at a special point on a railway. I know, as a matter of fact, that at a station west of that point, a man who went to start a store there, acting on my suggestion, went to the side hill of a cutting and drove into the gravel instead of boring down into the clay bed. I had to go south, and on returning ten days afterwards, we drank from a better source of water taken from a well only 12 feet deep, in which there were five feet of pure water as I ever drank in my life. (Cheers.) This difficulty in respect of water only applies to the central portion of the Province of Assiniboia. Running east from the mountains, there are from eight to ten beautiful rivers, the character of the water of which, unless seen, cannot be appreciated. We all talk of the beauty of the water of the St. Lawrence, but that cannot compare with it. As an experiment, I dropped a five-cent piece into one of the streams, and I distinctly distinguished it at a depth of a long fishing rod which I had at the time. This is the character of the water, and it is so cold that in the middle of August it takes a vigorous fellow to take a dip into it. As to the CHARACTER OF THE COUNTRY I state most unhesitatingly—and I believe that observation on a more extended scale will shortly verify my statement—that in no portion of the Province of land unfit for agriculture than in the district of Alberta. (Cheers.) I travelled there for days and in various directions, and from one hill, or rather from one beautiful, rolling, undulating slope to another, and I frequently saw thousands of acres in one valley of the finest loam that the soil ever bore. I say, as an agriculturist, that I never left any portion of the earth which I had visited with such a degree of reluctance as I left the district of Alberta. My hon. friend from East Hastings (Mr. White) spoke about living out in the snow. I may say that I saw snow there one afternoon, but I was told that it was eighty miles away. I saw it from Calgary, and speaking of that place, I may say that the man who has not visited Calgary has not yet seen one of the most pleasing sights, one of the finest landscapes that could be presented to any man's view. I am not at all sure that the way of quoting poetry but it certainly is "the loveliest village of the plain," and the plain itself is certainly a most beautiful one. A finer site for a town could not have been selected for they have abundance of water, they have coal, in the neighborhood of the mountains they have timber, and they have mines. I believe that in a short period that town will be the rival of Winnipeg, and before the part of the people of Alberta will be knocking at the doors of this parliament for a charter of incorporation, as by that time, I am sure, they will have attained the limit of population provided by the British North America Act.

SATISFIED AND DISAPPOINTED SETTLERS. Now, I travelled, as I said, on a buckboard. I took occasion when I met a farmer on his farm to ask him: "Well, neighbor, where do you come from?" "Well, I came from Carleton." But eight out of every ten I met came from Huron and Bruce. Well, I found that every man I met, I may say without a single exception, who was on his

farm and went there to make the country his home, expressed himself as perfectly satisfied, and as having no wish to go back to Ontario. I did find a few growlers—where did I find them? About the piazzas of the hotels; and I will venture the wages that 95 per cent. of the growlers were this class of men.

The cheapest building material, of the most durable and beautiful quality that exists on this continent, exists in that Northwest Territory. I referred a few minutes ago to the large deposits of almost pure clay. Those beds are the deposits of the disintegration of the hill rocks, long before the country was settled, any way (laughter), and the lime which the rocks contained has been carried off while held in solution. The clay, almost pure, is deposited, and I refer especially to the coal regions—in immense beds over the coal. The only substance that these beds contain, aside from the clay, is a siliceous sand which is insoluble in water. What drew my attention to this was, that I saw at various places on the river banks, natural brick kilns, burnt and almost ready for use. It came in this way. The deposits were made over the coal beds by the action of water. In the course of time, ravines have been formed and cut through the coal beds. Eventually the grass has covered the surface, and by some accident in prairie fires, the coal caught fire, and continued back for acres under the surface, converting the whole superincumbent mass, from 150 to 200 feet, into a mass of beautiful brick. (Hear, hear.) It is the

CHARACTER OF THE BRICK I wish to draw the attention of the House to. It is a brick formed from the clay, entirely devoid of lime, containing a siliceous sand. In burning, after mixture, there is no expansion of the particles of lime. The brick is almost perfect, and it is a siliceous brick. It is a crude glass, impervious to water, and almost indestructible by atmospheric influence. So much with reference to the building material. There is scarcely a brick in it, it is the character of the soil. It is a brick formed from the clay, entirely devoid of lime, containing a siliceous sand. In burning, after mixture, there is no expansion of the particles of lime. The brick is almost perfect, and it is a siliceous brick. It is a crude glass, impervious to water, and almost indestructible by atmospheric influence. So much with reference to the building material. There is scarcely a brick in it, it is the character of the soil. 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