

On the Wing.

MANITOBA.

The accompanying scene we observed last June when traveling through Dakota on our way to Manitoba. This farmer has the advantage of many settlers on the prairie; he can see the signs of other human beings existing, as a railway train will pass in sight of his house twice each day. But many a settler cannot see another tent but his own on this vast ocean of land. You may observe how the good housewife has hung out her clothes. One would think them safely anchored there, but such is the suddenness and strength of the wind on these prairies that on one occasion we had a good handkerchief blown away; perhaps a greyhound or race-horse might have overtaken it, but we should have no more chance of catching it than if we ran after a hawk. There were several ladies with their families on the train; they were going to join their husbands, who had prepared a home for them. We aided some of them with their luggage at transfer stations. When on the train one lady wished to move from one car to another. We lent her assistance by carrying one of her children. When

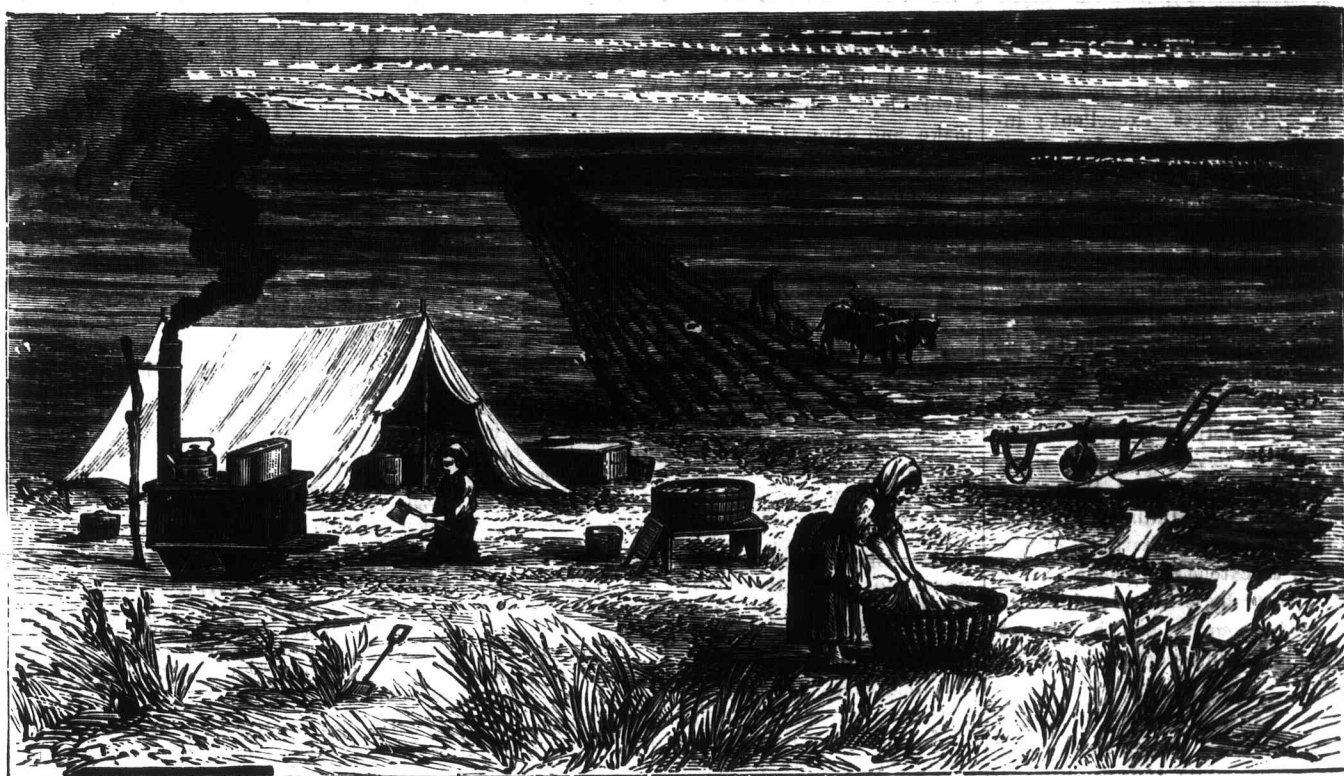
ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENCE.

SIR,—To the dwellers by the sea the benefit of salt in preventing decay in timber has always been acknowledged, though, in many cases, not sufficiently appreciated or applied. Every farmer whose land adjoins the sea shore, where the winds and tides cast up the waifs and strays of the ocean, fully realizes its importance. If he can get a well-soaked drift log for a gate-post, he knows he will have no more trouble with it for half a lifetime. A fence-post, rail or stake that has been soaked in salt water will last out at least one and a half that were not. Wood that is exposed to salt water, that is, any structure that the tide covers twice a day, the writer will not pretend to limit. You ask a farmer near the sea how long wood so exposed will last, and in every case he will tell you "it will never rot." The writer has seen the sluices of an old abidian, that, from the best authority, had been there about two hundred years, apparently as sound as when put there. He has seen posts taken out of dyked marsh, after being there thirty years, with the bottoms as sound as the day they were set. Although all this is known and acknowledged by farmers near the sea, very little, beyond anchoring an occasional raft of rails or posts in the salt water for the summer, is done in using salt as a

that an extra heavy crop would be produced. I visited the same county again this spring, and to my surprise I found grain looked very uneven, and I could scarcely find a perfect, or even fair field, no matter on what kind of soil. There must be a cause for this; would any of the farmers lay that cause to too early sowing? I attribute it to that cause. I shall not on this occasion state any manner of cultivation, or to it being sowed too thin or too thick, but from a peculiar need which will not be found in later sowed grain, or to any grass that helped to smother out the grain, but I will give my reason as to too early sowing. I may state I do not believe in extremely late sowing, but an average of, say, about the 15th of September, or if very heavy clay ground, it might be as profitably sown on the 8th as the 15th September. B—d.

Bee-Swarming.

SIR,—In reply to H. W. W., in last issue, I would say, have movable-comb hives, and as often during the swarming season as queen cells are formed, preparatory to emigration—once a week if necessary—lift out the frames and cut off those cells, and you are master of the situation. Do it before the cells are sealed, or the bees may prove too smart for you. This is, perhaps, the only really reliable way of effecting this object in this cli-



FIRST SUMMER IN MANITOBA.

crossing the platform between the cars the wind blew off our hat, which was, of course, a "goner." We took a newspaper, got a needle and thread, and made a paper hat.

Many men have commenced in this style who now own immense farms. New settlers generally have many hardships to pass through that would discourage their children. We must give the Government credit for removing some of the evils that intending settlers complained about when we were there; but one very great one remains unabated, that is, the immense tracts of land that are not available for settlement, and are held by speculators, are not paying anything towards the improvement of Manitoba, or the expenses that the eastern provinces are paying for their railroads and emigration to that country. The increased value of the land by the millions we are paying and must pay, passes directly into the hands of speculators in Manitoba, and comes out of the pockets of Eastern farmers, and will never be repaid to them, but must remain a loan for all time to come. The laws have favored the land speculators to the injury of settlers and to the injury and loss of Eastern farmers. Perhaps we may be wrong in looking into the future. See Manitoba correspondence, page 136.

preventative of decay; except among shipbuilders, and how long they have used it the writer cannot say. Their mode of application is to fill in between the inner and outer planking with crude rock salt—tons going into a single ship. There is one thing that will always operate to a certain extent against the use of salt in preserving timber, that is, wherever there is salt there will be dampness, and that will cause iron nails to rust. Nails or spikes exposed to salt water will rust off in a very short time. Salt might be used to a very great advantage with posts, stakes, rails, or anything where iron is not used, but will never be very popular for shingles, fence-boards, etc., unless composition nails are used. As to the mode of applying, probably the simplest and best way would be to make a strong brine with salt and water and soak the timber in it. Salt, when dissolved, will go wherever water will, and no one need feel afraid of the salt not penetrating every part of the wood. J. A. W., King's Co., N.S.

State of Wheat in Oxford Co.

SIR,—Having had occasion to travel through the County of Oxford last fall on business, and taking an interest in the growing of wheat, my attention was called to every field of wheat in the section, and I must say I was really surprised to see how forward it was and how even it looked. In fact, from its growth I would be led to believe

mate. Box hives, as ordinarily made, do not admit of access to queen-cells, but when of shallow pattern, where the comb, when built, would be about seven inches deep, swarming may be prevented by smoking the bees out of the way, and removing the queen-cells with a table-fork or some other suitable instrument as often as may be necessary. L. M. H., Sussex, N.B.

SIR,—In reply to H. W. W., of Orwell, I send the following: You can prevent your bees from swarming by shading the hives from the hot rays of the sun, and giving the bees plenty of room inside the hives; and by a liberal use of the honey extractor. When the honey is removed, place the empty combs in the centre of the brood-chamber, and destroy the queen; cells once a week, and you will not be troubled with swarming.

C. F. D., Nile, Ont.
D. D., Halifax Co.—Your letter respecting "The Ontario Lightning Road Co." of this city, received as we go to press.

The Directors of the above company are men of good reputation, and they may unfortunately have dishonorable agents, and further enquiries will be made. Our advice, so often repeated is, to pay for what you order on receipt, and when it is fully up to sample or promise. Be cautious in signing any paper to be held by a stranger, and on no account sign any blank paper, or allow your signature to be at the mercy of any person, friend or stranger.