

upon the soil, that when they are gone their successors may say of them, that in the early days of the history of their country, those who were in the position to mould its young destinies, used with wisdom and foresight the tremendous opportunities which Providence placed within their reach." These remarks which have fallen from the lips of three successive Governors-General constitute a great and glorious tribute to the unequalled conditions of prosperity existing in the Canadian North-West, and they give clear indications as to the great developments which await it in the early future.

#### THE PROVINCE OF MANITOBA.

This Province—the eldest sister of the North-West group—may be fairly considered as having been released from the parental care of the Dominion Government, and as having surrounded herself with a thoroughly complete establishment of her own. Whether we direct our attention to the work done in her Parliament, or to the administration of her laws, or to the development of her internal wealth, she stands unsurpassed for their excellence. Amidst so much that is well organised, it is still necessary for me to make special reference to the work done under

#### THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Their work would be highly commendable in any country, if only for the fact that their annual reports are of the highest excellence, and their crop and live stock bulletins are of immense practical value. The care taken in obtaining accurate information is worthy of all praise, and it is a matter for warm congratulation that the example which Manitoba has set is very likely to be followed throughout the Dominion of Canada. The work of the Department as now organised goes far beyond this, for it embraces the oversight of all matters relating to agriculture—such as the establishment and assistance of local boards of agriculture, and local agricultural societies—the management of the Provincial Agricultural Exhibition—the establishment of schools for agriculture and for instruction in veterinary science—the enforcement of laws relating to the diseases of animals, coupled with providing professional assistance in cases of exceptional difficulty—the enforcement of the laws having reference to noxious weeds—the management of experiments on crops, live stock, fruit, forestry, etc., etc. I have noticed the work of this Department somewhat in detail, because I think that it should be more generally known, that these farmers who settle within this Province have a guardian care over them and a strong and willing hand ready to help them in any difficulty. The Government of Manitoba recognises this great truth—that the prosperity of every individual settler is a matter of public importance, because of its influence upon the general welfare of the Province. Men are not left here to become martyrs to circumstances which are beyond their control, neither are they permitted to feel that they are uncared for, whether they succeed or fail. There is a jealous protection extended towards them, because every successful farmer is a producer of wealth, and being such it is considered to be both economical and desirable to encourage all his efforts. I must not, however, be supposed to suggest that any Government care can convert our "poor-do-weels" into prosperous men of business, but, notwithstanding this, immense help can be given—and is given—to those men who understand their work, and who have the capital to enter into their business under conditions which are consistent with success.

#### THE CHARACTER OF THE SOIL.

The character of the soil of any country necessarily exerts a commanding influence upon the commercial success of those who cultivate it, and the natural fertility of the soil consequently becomes a matter of very great importance. This is a truth which is more perfectly known in England and Scotland than in any country in the world, for here the greatest efforts and the heaviest expenditure have been made, in keeping up the fertility of our soils by the aid of artificial manures. The soil of Manitoba differs very greatly in different parts, for we must not forget that we are speaking of a tract of country larger than Great Britain and Ireland. No one need be surprised at the fact that we find in Manitoba soils which are good, bad, and indifferent, and yet experience justifies the Indian title it bears as "The Land of the Great Spirit of God's country," for this is the literal translation of the word "Manitoba." One may truthfully