

zie's visit was made in August and September last. He gave his impressions at a dinner in Winnipeg, and also to a reporter of the *Toronto Globe*. From the report published in that paper, the following is extracted:

"How did you find the crops along the line of the Canada Pacific from Winnipeg west?"

"The crops generally were very good, both in Manitoba and the territorial districts which I was able to visit. There was scarcely an inferior field to be seen. I found an impression prevailing in Ontario and also to some extent in Manitoba, that the district next to the mountains was not suited for agricultural operations on account of the alleged liability to early frost. From a personal examination of the country for a considerable distance around Calgary—especially the farms which have been occupied for some years by enterprising squatters, and also the government farm, I found that in this whole district the crops were uniformly excellent, and generally far above the average. I do not care to commit myself as to an estimate of the crops, but I should say that some of the wheat fields would yield somewhere between thirty and forty bushels to the acre; some of the oat fields would yield from seventy to eighty bushels, while the barley and pease were also excellent both in quality and quantity. The potatoes and roots of all sorts were very fine. A large portion of this district, indeed almost the whole of it, has been leased to ranche holders, and they very naturally try to continue the impression that the ground occupied by them is only suitable for grazing. This is manifestly a great mistake. The ranches at the moment interpose the great difficulty in the way of settling the country. I am not disposed to quarrel with the original proposition to devote the lands in the vicinity of the mountains to grazing purposes, as grazing is exceedingly good, and the apprehension was probably general that it would not be so suitable as land farther east for purely farming operations. Now, however, that it is ascertained that the land is eminently suitable for agricultural purposes or mixed farming, there is no doubt in my own mind of the wisdom of encouraging settlers and selling land to them rather than continue the ranching system.

One of the farms I visited, that of Mr. Livingstone, about eight miles from Calgary, in a south-west direction, has been occupied by that gentleman for over fifteen years, and another farm, occupied by Mr. Bouchier, has also been occupied for a number of years. Mr. James Glen has been on his farm for seven years. One of the latter gentleman's fields of oats, on the summit of the ridge, was the sixth crop sown on the same ground, and it was a very heavy one. I met with several other farmers farther down Fish Creek and in other directions, all of whom had the same story to tell about the alleged damage by frosts, and the suitability of the soil and climate for farming operations. I understand there is a provision in the ranche leases, providing for resumption by the government upon a certain notice, and my impression is that wherever it is found that the pressure of settlers to obtain lands in territory now leased to ranche-keepers becomes great it is more profitable to accommodate the settlers than to continue in the grazing business. The combined operations of a large number of farmers would undoubtedly result in maintaining at least as large a stock as the ranche-keepers maintain now. In other words, mixed farming would maintain a much larger population."

"Did you observe particularly the capabilities for farming farther east, between Calgary and Manitoba?"

"I arranged to visit seven out of the ten experimental farms commenced by the Railway Company, to ascertain, first, the effect of the alkali deposits, which prevailed to some extent in some districts, upon cereals and roots, and secondly to ascertain what the result was in a general way of these farms, considering soil and climate. I observed throughout the whole length of the road that there was scarcely any poor soil to be seen. In quarters, notably between Medicine Hat and Moose Jaw, there was an appearance of dryness in the general aspect of the prairie visible, which was not apparent where the land had been ploughed. There is a sort of crispness in the grass in some places that would seem to indicate a prevailing dryness. This, however is not uniformly the case. What is known as buffalo grass, where it has a dry appearance, still continues to preserve its nutritious qualities, and cures as well standing as if cut. Such is the general statement, made to me by old