

We had a conversation with an American about the Indians. He said that Sitting Bull's tribe had now been in our country two years, that they now belong to us, and that if they returned to the States they would be driven back to Canada again. Are we to be saddled with the expense of feeding and educating the Indians that belong to the States? It appears very much as if we shall have these Indians on our hands unless great care is taken.

FREE GRANT LANDS.

From the best information we could obtain we learned that free grant lands yet to be had were about 90 miles north-west of Portage la Prairie. The roads about Winnipeg had just begun to be partially passable. We heard the land was drier and the roads better at the Portage and beyond it. We took the steamboat and duly arrived at the Portage. It rained during the night. Our only way to get to the village was to wade through the mud and water. We arrived at the hotel mud-ded nearly to the knees. Wet footed, and with satchel in hand, we asked for a room to change in, but we could not then get one; so we waded to Mr. Michael P. Ryan's, M. P. After conversing with him we went to the Government Land Office. Here we met a settler who came through the day before, with a yoke of oxen and cart. He said he had to drive ten miles through two feet of water—one stretch of six and another of four miles. This is the road we should have been obliged to travel. Rainy weather, wet footed, wet legged, we became what Winnipeggers call chicken-hearted, and turned toward the hotel. The Immigration Agent said we could rely on the correctness of our informant. We met the captain of the vessel and another passenger. We engaged a man and a span of horses to drive us to the boat, and when about half way we three passengers got out and waded through the mud, for fear the horses would stick. We walked ahead of the team, and left our satchel in the wagon. We had not proceeded far when we turned around to see how the driver was getting along. He was in the mud trying to get up one of the horses that got mired. We returned for our bag. The driver had on long boots. We asked him to give us our satchel. The poor man tried to pull his feet out of the mud, and in doing so he left both boots behind in the adhesive element, and waded to us in his stocking feet. We could not help him, as the captain was in such a hurry to get away; so we left him, with the horse lying in the mud, and know not when or how the animal was extricated from his miry bed. We returned by the boat, washed our trousers, drawers, socks and boots, and hung them up to dry on the upper part of the boat.

Do you not think that we went far enough—with the roads in such a state—for an old man between fifty and sixty years of age? and this, too, for the express purpose of gaining information for the benefit of the subscribers to the FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

(To be Continued.)

[As soon as the other papers cease to publish unmixed laudatory and enticing accounts of Manitoba, we will then depict some of the shining side of our picture. Some say we draw our pictures too strong. The driver left both boots sticking in the mud—we show but one in the cut. There are openings in Manitoba for those with money, but we pity the poor man who goes at the present time to take up land.]

It is well known that the scales which fly off iron from being worked at forges into trimmings, filings, or other ferruginous material, if worked into the soil about fruit-trees, or the more minute particles spread thinly on the lawn, mixed with the earth of flower beds or pots, are most valuable. It is especially valuable to the peach and pear, and is in fact a necessity to the soil. For colored flowers it heightens the bloom, and increases the brilliancy of white or nearly white flowers of all the rose family.

To keep zinnias double, save only the outside seeds, which are much wider than the inside ones.

Strike bedding geraniums in the full sun in open border. Short cutting make the best plants.

On the Wing.

(Continued from page 193.)

We much want a good new spring wheat, and should this prove to be that wheat in years to come, the readers of the ADVOCATE will no doubt remember the account here given of it. We do not wish to be understood as describing how it originated, for at present we know nothing concerning its origin, but in the account above given we merely state the way this particular variety was saved and named. It may prove of value, or turn out worthless.

The winter wheat and some of the spring grain was harvested. Mr. Nichol, a student from Kingston, has charge of the grain tests. He appears a very careful and energetic young man. He accompanied us and gathered the twelve heads for us. In the barn and storehouse we examined some of the numerous varieties of wheat grown. The heads and straw of each variety are labelled, and a sample of each kept. Many varieties had two or more names. For instance, the much-talked-of varieties, Arnold's Victor and the Gold Medal wheats, were considered by Mr. Brown, Mr. Nichol and others to be the same variety; the heads of the Soules wheat were longer than those of the above-named varieties. Formerly we had the impression that all three were the same, but there is a difference in the length of the heads of the Soules wheat and the Gold Medal. Another variety shown as Arnold's Hybrid, procured from Mr. Landreth of Philadelphia, looks exactly like

through the garden. It was in good order and free from weeds. The cabbage-bee, however, was anything but a model affair; it appeared as if some old mixed seed had been used, and that the show was to expose some seed establishment rather than anything else. We spoke in our last year's report of the immense quantities of the poorest kinds of Petunia that were growing on this ground. We do not know what it is for; there is more of this poorest variety growing in this garden than would be required by all the good seedsmen and gardeners on this continent.

On the test plot the Prickly Comfrey is growing luxuriantly. It may be as valuable as seedsmen's catalogues have stated, but it looks like a rough-growing weed that used to be found along the margins of streams in Europe. We understand that this is rather a dangerous plant to grow, for when once in the ground it is difficult to eradicate it. The grass tests may prove of more value to us than the grain tests. Lucerne was thriving remarkably well; enormous crops had been cut. It was sown in drills and broadcast. Mr. Brown preferred the latter method. We think this plant will come into more general use as it becomes better known. The grass known as Sheep's Parsley was thriving very well. Many varieties of European grasses were total failures.

Several varieties of wheat supplied as spring wheat by some of the best Scotch and English seedsmen had proved total failures; and of wheats requiring to be sown in the fall in this country, not one of them came to maturity. The failure of these varieties has caused much loss to some of our Canadian seedsmen and disappointment to farmers. A piece of land sown with mixed grass (some 15 varieties) looked very well, but some appeared to thrive much better than others.

An article on grasses will appear in a future number.

Health and Profit.

Mr. C. H. Voute, of Toronto, has now in operation in Toronto, St. Catharines and London, a

system for removing night soil from the premises of houses without any offensive odor. This is effected by the use of machinery and chemicals. The same gentleman has also an apparatus that reduces it to powder, which, by mixing with leached ashes, swamp muck, or marl, produces a most valuable manure at a cheap rate. He is now desirous of forming companies in each locality to manufacture and use this manure. To farmers who wish to enrich their lands this should be deserving of attention. Every city, town, and village should pass by-laws compelling the removal of all such soil, as no doubt the gases which arise tend to the injury of the public health, and to the production of diseases. Cleanliness may prevent the spread of pestilences which otherwise would carry many to their graves. Cleanliness implies health, while negligence produces disease and death. Those who are in power and do not attend to their duties, no matter in what capacity, are unworthy members of society. We wish to do our duty in calling attention to the subject; farmers and citizens should both profit by it.

The *Scientific Farmer* advises, as the flesh of most fruits contains much potash, as well as lime, in combination with the fruity acid, and the seeds, phosphoric acid, the application each year per acre of from 200 to 250 pounds of bone-dust, 300 to 400 pounds of sulphate of potash, the latter guaranteed to contain 35 to 40 per cent. of sulphate of potash. This would give us 70 to 80 pounds of potash, 50 to 60 pounds of lime (from the bones), 10 to 20 pounds of nitrogen, and some magnesia in the potash and fertilizer. Such treatment has been found successful by fruit growers in both this country and Europe.



TRAVELING IN MANITOBA.

the Clawson; the length of head, growth of straw, and appearance of the grain show no difference. A wheat grown under the name of Christie's wheat appears the same variety that is known among farmers under the following names: Chilian, Platt's Midge-proof Rice, and Wild Grouse wheats. It is our impression they are all the same as Christie's wheat.

We went into the harvest-field, where a reaping machine was being tested. This machine was made by the Noxon Manufacturing Company of Ingersoll, and did its work in a faultless manner. Some of the grain was partly lodged, some thin and some heavy on the ground, with some full of grass and thistles. In each place it took the grain clean off the ground; scarcely a straw was to be seen, and the sheaves were neatly and squarely laid. Another machine was about to be tested as we left. Different machines are taken to the farm to be tried. The wheats being cut while we were there were the Lost Nation and the White Russian. Painted boards on the fence were the only indications to show any difference between these two varieties; they are both a bald white-chaffed spring wheat; had been sown at the same period, and were both ripe at the same time. We could see no difference between them. These two varieties were the main crop. Whether they will be equal to or surpass the Fife, Club or Siberian, further tests only can develop. We passed