

Thanksgiving Day.

Thursday, October 31, has been fixed for Thanksgiving day throughout Canada. It is a holiday and a day of feasting, but all hearts will join in giving thanks to God for His plenteous mercies during the past year. In schools special attention should be called to the day and the many causes for rejoicing and thankfulness for the favors we have received and the misfortunes we have been spared. Although there have been fewer days of sunshine in this part of Canada during the past summer than for many years past, the crops have no doubt been up to the average. We have had no wars or pestilence or great calamities. Business has been good and trade prosperous. All minor inconveniences and troubles we may have had are more than counterbalanced by the peaceful and prosperous condition of the country at large. In this there is cause for general public thankfulness and rejoicing.

Wheat Raising.

A description of our Canadian North-West and wheat raising would be an appropriate lesson for the Thanksgiving season. Imagine an extent of country nearly 1,000 miles from east to west, dotted with great fields of grain in early June, in September waving with stalks of golden wheat. Hundreds of men go from the maritime provinces every autumn to help garner in this crop of wheat. Many of them return home after the work is done; many stay and buy farms for themselves, or seek their fortunes at other occupations in the new West. The grain ripens very quickly under bright sunshine, and often a delay of a day or two in harvesting causes a loss of many hundreds of dollars to the wheat farmer, so that all those great fields of waving grain have to be harvested at the same time, often within the space of a week or two. Expensive machinery is used to cut the wheat. One of these machines will cut the grain, lay it in swaths, and tie it up in bundles ready for stacking. It remains for some time in stacks, which are so built as to shed the rain and let the air through, to complete the drying process. Then it is ready for threshing. This is done by steam threshers which separate it from the straw and clean the grain. The wheat is then stored in elevators and the straw stacked. The elevators are huge buildings, which are often capable of holding a million bushels of grain. From the elevators the grain is taken to the flour mills, after it has been examined by inspectors to determine the

different grades or qualities. Much of the wheat grown in Canada is shipped to Great Britain and there ground into flour. All through the winter trains of cars carry this wheat to the seaboard, much of it to St. John and Halifax, whence it is sent across the ocean.

The pupils should find on the map of Western Canada the wheat-producing area in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, and the railways, chiefly the Canadian Pacific, that carry this grain to the east. Let them trace this and also the projected Grand Trunk road, crossing the continent from the maritime provinces to Fort Simpson in British Columbia, and opening up some of the richest wheat lands in the world.

Canada is destined to be the greatest wheat growing country of the world. Only a small portion of the land suitable for raising wheat has been cultivated. As the growth of wheat extends, other great railroads from west to east will have to be constructed to carry this wheat to the seaboard, through our own country, to be shipped to the millions of people in Europe. More great flour mills will have to be built throughout Canada to grind this wheat, which is more easily and safely carried in flour than in grain, and thus give employment to a greater number of people. Flour mills of the United States have been built on a vast scale, but their tariff of twenty-five cents on Canadian wheat practically prohibits its importation into that country.

Our picture for this month represents a party of gleaners, those who go over the harvest fields and gather up the tufts of grain left by the harvesters. That is not done in this country; but in France and other European countries, everything that will help to eke out the existence of the poor is looked after and gathered. Even the children, as the painting shows, help to do this work. The following poem by Clinton Scollard will help to explain many of the features seen in the picture:

Reminiscence of Thanksgiving.

Though poppies grew amid our wheat,
Like tiny urns abrim with heat,
To dim remembrance are not banned
The radiant days when life was sweet
Amid the harvest-goldened land.

Nay, all the glamour and the glow
Is ours to hold, is ours to know,
Though the grim leaguer, Winter, soon
Will blur the face of dawn with snow,
And pale the watches of the moon.