

experience, sent by the British Parliament on a most important mission, and therefore their views in regard to this country will receive great weight at home in the old country. We will look forward to the official report of these commissioners with great interest, because we are inclined to think from their utterances, while in Winnipeg, that they will do justice to this country. We are not as a rule, however, in favor of reports compiled from a hasty survey of the land. Great mistakes are liable to occur, wrong impressions created, and injustice done, because sufficient time has not been taken to look into matters thoroughly. The Americans evidently were aware of the importance of creating a good impression on the minds of Messrs. Pell and Read, and took every pains to show them attention and display all that was possible in favor of their land. But as Mr. Pell remarked in his speech at a banquet tendered them in Winnipeg, the "Commissioners did not come to enjoy the hospitality of the people of the country;" they had another and a greater object in view. Mr. Read, on the same occasion, spoke to the following effect:

"Reverting to the subject of their mission, he said that there was no doubt that the farmers in England had suffered and must continue to suffer for some time. He did not see how they could improve in a hurry, for they have now had five bad harvests, the last being the worst; and it could readily be imagined that in these days, with short crops, there was, unfortunately, no counterbalancing advancing of good prices. The condition of the British farmer was, in truth, one far from flourishing. At present, almost the whole loss fell on the tenant-farmers. Agricultural laborers have never been so well employed and well paid as at the present moment. He had been very much pleased to hear the remarks of the U. S. Consul that evening, but did not quite agree with him in the portion of his speech wherein he spoke of Southern Russia as being the only great competitor which the agriculturists of the wheat belt on this continent had to fear. If Russia were the only competitor they had, then there was in

his (Read's) opinion little cause for fear. Before Russia can do much more than she is at present doing, as a producer of breadstuffs, she must give up some of her ambitious schemes. Her railways must be made less to subserve military than commercial needs. He had been seriously pained to hear that the people of this land were to compete with English farmers not only in grain supplies, but in meat supplies. But the time had not arrived yet. Farmers here must first give over their practice of burning their straw. They must cease to regard a manure-heap as a superhuman nuisance—they must not pull down their stables in preference to removing their dung hills. Then, when the superfluous fertility of their land has been reduced—when, as he had been told, the other day, it was found that their land would 'bear manure'—then they might probably turn their attention to the matter of meat. He had seen land in this district which his limited experience led him to believe the very best land for cultivation that the world ever produced. Everything seemed to favor the production of wheat—a favorable climate and a soil which was one large mass of rich alluvial, ready, apparently, to give the richest returns with the easiest work. He did not know what soil they could have better, or with more advantages."

Mr. Read's reference to the practice here of farmers burning their straw and making no use of manure on the land is true, and it certainly must have appeared strange to him, accustomed to regard manure as a most valuable assistant, to see it thrown aside almost in the light of a nuisance. It is indeed true that we have land in Manitoba which has been cultivated since the time of Lord Selkirk, in 1812, and which to this day has never received a particle of manure. After Mr. Reid's speech in Winnipeg we have every reason to expect that his official report will bear out the impression he formed so favorable to the climate and soil of Manitoba. In advance of the visit of the Commissioners to this country, we find the London, England, *Times* of the 24th Oct., speaking in the following strong terms in favor of the Canadian North West as a field for British emigration: