

to emigrate, work on the farm for a year, and then settle according to ability on portions of the land unbroken, payments being extended in easy instalments over several years. It will be interesting to see how this experiment answers. We saw some good English Shire horses, and noticed 500 Shorthorn cattle in one field. This neighbourhood is not equal to that we had just left, and as we rejoined our car at three o'clock in the afternoon and travelled towards Regina, we passed through prairie land of rather poor quality, little wood upon it, and very few settlers.

The cost of producing a crop of wheat from sowing to the delivery into the elevator is estimated throughout Manitoba at from 28s. to 30s. an acre.

We reached Regina, but made no stay there this time, going on a 250 miles journey by train to Prince Albert, arriving there on Sunday morning after a somewhat uninteresting travel through a flat prairie country of poor quality and lacking wood and water, but it is said to be better than it looks. A fire was burning for many miles as we passed on over the prairie, the railway track, stations, and the few houses to be seen being protected from the fire by what are called fireguards. This is about six or eight furrows ploughed along each side of the rail and around the houses, which prevents the fire crossing. The effect of the fire gives a very desolate, bleak, barren appearance to the country. At the various stations very large heaps of buffalo bones, collected off the prairie by Indians, and sent, I am told, to England, are to be seen, and the Indians themselves, with horses and quaint-shaped carts, camping very like the old English gipsy a short distance away on the rising ground. A few herds of cattle, flocks of wild geese, ducks, an occasional wolf or fox, startled by our train (the second only, I believe, that has passed up this newly-laid line), completed the picture. Prince Albert contains about 900 inhabitants, and is very pleasantly situated on the River Saskatchewan, the surrounding scenery being very beautiful, and there are some very good houses on the high ground, with the police barracks and nunnery on the hilltop. We were taken in carriages for a circuitous drive through the country of 35 miles, calling at various farms and inspecting the grain. Some of the wheat was frosted, probably owing to late sowing, but the barley was of good quality. So far as we could judge, this district is more calculated for ranching than corn-growing at present, having no market; but the line now open, and should eventually the contemplated line from the Northern Pacific be made, it would grow rapidly into an important settlement. We heard of much good corn land and fine hay country in the opposite direction to the one we took, and the whole is well sheltered, with wood and water, and affords good shooting and sport of all kinds. I fancy this part of the country must wait a few years till more accessible districts are taken up.

We left on Monday morning on our return journey, calling at Duck Lake, and driving out through a wide extent of prairie, with apparently little stock on it. A considerable trade in furs and skins is carried on here. Our next stoppage was at Saskatoon, to see some