

Editor Farmer's Advocate.

From Red River.

SIR.—The crops here are splendid, notwithstanding that they did not get a shower of rain from the middle of May until the 23rd of July, and then very little. There will not be as much straw as usual, but quite as much grain, and that of the very best quality. The power of the soil here to produce crops under difficulties is almost incredible. The spring was ten or fifteen days later than usual in opening, but was very fine when it did open. The summer so far has been cooler than usual, but no frosts. Barley cutting commenced the harvest last week, and wheat cutting will commence next week. It is estimated that over 2000 emigrants have arrived from Ontario, besides a good number from Minnesota and Kansas, most of whom are well pleased with the country. The first lot of emigrants by the Lake of the Woods or Thunder Bay route, (the cheapest way) have just arrived here.

Fort Garry, July 30th, 1871.

RETURN OF A DISSATISFIED EMIGRANT

In company with others from Lobo and Williams, I started from here on the 25th of May last. After a good deal of "fire and labor," as Robinson Crusoe used to say, we arrived safe and sound at Fort Garry on the 19th of June, and though we were subject to many inconveniences and some heavy expenses, such as meals at 75 cents, and a guide from St. Paul's to Frog Point at \$5 per day, still all would have been forgotten, had the country been half as good as had been represented. Upon arriving we found that no provision had been made to give the settler proper or legal possession of any land he might wish to take up. They have no fat registry offices there yet, so each settler takes possession by the "rule of thumb" and that rule in this case is that the settler draws his wagon and plough into the centre of the piece of land he wishes to have. His wagon is called his home, his plough his farm implements, and he claims 160 acres of land around his wagon, provided some other settler or half-breed has not made similar settlement duties before him, which, by the way, go where he will in the part of the country that he can get at, is sure to be the case. So a man may link his home and settle down for one night, but on awaking next morning may think himself in the London market, for he is almost sure to hear the old well-known cry, "Come, drive on, drive on there, sir, you can't stop here, this place is taken up." But even if he should be fortunate enough to be the first man on the ground, should he ever have to take his wagon from home, to mill for example, which is only 60 miles distant, he forfeits all possession, and may return to find some hybrid Italian sitting under and enjoying his vine and fig tree or their equivalent. I found the natives and half-breeds friendly enough, and in many respects they behaved better than some of our Canadian ones there. The Indians are much larger and stronger looking than ours; their clothing is not burdensome, for with, I suppose, commendable forethought, in warm weather they save it all to keep themselves warm when it turns cold; it appears also that they are far from being epicures, for one of the company having lost a horse, he drew it to the commons outside of Fort Garry, but was instantly followed by fifteen Indians, who cut it all up into pieces for their dinners. Both Indians and half-breeds are wholly destitute of decency and are filthy beyond description. The soil is a black, rich loam, 4 feet deep and of excellent quality, but water is very scarce, and that which is fit to drink is almost impossible to get. I saw only two springs, and only got three drinks of good water while there.

In the middle of July I started to dig a well, and at the depth of five feet I was not through the frost. Others of the company, at the same time, were sinking a post, and at the depth of seven feet were not through the frost. Even if everything else was satisfactory the climate is too cold, for I only saw three days that I could not have worn my overcoat with comfort; and to make the matter worse the supply of wood is very limited, and only poplar and other soft wood at that. It is now brought for five miles down the river in rafts to Fort Garry, and it is merely a question of a few years when all that is within reach will be consumed. The houses are log, built after a peculiar fashion of the country not at all like ours. The roofs are made of mud and grass, but the houses are very warm and comfortable. I saw a church of Mr. Fletcher's that was partly built last

year, and the rest of the logs are laying about covered with grass. The water is drawn out of the River at Fort Garry with oxen and sold at fifty cents a barrel, and "as muddy as ever the Sauble was." At Fort Garry flour is \$9.50 per barrel; beef, 16c. per pound; pork, \$60 per barrel; butter, 40c. per pound; cheese, 70c. per pound; eggs, 35c. per dozen; sugar, 25c. per pound; tea, 70c. per pound; liquors, 124c. a drink; oats, \$1.50 per bushel; wheat and barley, \$1.25 per bushel; cows, \$70 each; horses, from \$400 to \$600 a span; common pine lumber, \$80 per 1000 ft.; board, \$10 per week, with bed, and \$8 without. And, by the way, a bed was a luxury I did not enjoy only five nights from the time I left home until I returned. My custom was to tumble under the wagon at night and cover myself up head and ears, before the mosquitoes would eat me. I am no greenhorn at travelling, and I know a good country when I see it; for I have travelled over twelve States of the Union, all over Canada, through England, Ireland and Scotland, been at Madagascar in Africa, stopped a good while in New Zealand, and also been in part of South America, and I never was in as mean a country in my life as Red River, and I advise my friends to never think of going there.

While there I saw and stood on the very place poor Scott was shot. There is a strong feeling yet among the loyal residents that his blood shall be avenged. Riel is now living at a place called Stinking Creek, a very appropriate place for him to rusticate. A strong feeling exists against some parties who had previously left these parts for representing the country to be what they must have known it was not, and other parties who left here this summer are returning home faster than they went, and their statements all corroborate those made by me. Many who have not returned would wish to do so if they had the means; lots of clerks and other young fellows who never did a day's work in all their lives, are now seen glad to get a job at anything. No discredit, of course, but it goes to prove the truth of my statements that Red River is a humbug.

On the road home I stopped at a farm house at St. George, Minnesota. The farmer had 300 bushels of oats sown, and they were all coming out in head, and while I was there at 3 o'clock, p. m., the grasshoppers came down in a perfect cloud and settled on the oats, and next morning out of the whole lot there was not a green blade to be seen. The whole earth appeared to be covered several inches deep with them. On the 29th of July I returned home a wiser if not a richer man.

ALEX. MCNEIL.

We give the foregoing information in the writer's own terms. As our readers wish to know both sides of the question, they will observe quite a difference of opinion between Mr. McNeil's account and the accounts we publish in this number from our special correspondent. Both letters are reliable, and will be read with interest.

Editor Farmer's Advocate.

Western Fair.

SIR.—The challenge that appeared in the last number of the *Advocate*, is quite sufficient to satisfy any right-minded person as to which is in error in regard to the controversy that is going on between you and the managers of the Western Fair; the non-acceptance of the same ought at least be the means of making them very reticent in maligning either publicly or privately, you or the useful paper under your control.

Now I wish to offer a few observations (being disinterested both personally and locally) with regard to the influence and effects the holding of said Fair have had and will have on the people residing at or near to where different Provincial Exhibitions are held from time to time. The last time the Exhibition was held in London, there was no opposition got up against it either by the eastern section of the Province, at Kingston, or by the central part at Toronto. Even had they done so, they would only be acting in the same way as the managers of the Western Fair are and have been doing; and what other thoughts can pervade the minds of unprejudiced people but that this same Fair was initiated and is carried on solely for the purpose of opposition and defeating the object of the Ontario Exhibition and the Provincial Board. Messrs. Johnston & Co., this sort of thing went do; it looks too selfish on your part and will arouse the indignation of every friend of Agriculture,

no matter in what part of the Province he may reside. What would be the consequence if opposition Fairs were started, say in three or four sections of Ontario? Of course the result would be that we should have to mourn over the demise of our lost and annually cherished Provincial Exhibition, as in the old truthful adage, "a house divided against itself must fall." In conclusion, then, I say away with sectional prejudices, and let every friend of agriculture rally around the Provincial Board, and let us have an annual Exhibition worthy of Ontario, the queen Province of this "Canada of Ours."

Yours, etc.,
"AGRICOLA."

Simcoe County, Aug. 15th, 1871.

Editor Farmer's Advocate.

SIR.—I write to inform you that by some mistake somewhere, I have never received my July copy of the *FARMER'S ADVOCATE*, and I will be obliged to you if you will forward it to my address without delay.

Yours truly,
DAVID HUNTER,
Craigvale, Ont.

P.S.—SIR.—I await with very much interest your description of the yield of the several new kinds of fall wheat, in the September number of the *Advocate*, coupled with your recommendation of the same, as regards their purity and freedom from foul seeds. Since I became a subscriber to your valuable paper it has afforded me much pleasure to read of your experiments with the different kinds of seeds and plants on your own farm, and your remarks about them. Fall wheat is a splendid crop in our township (Innisfil) this year; the chief varieties grown are the Soules, Treadwell and Diehl. I cannot as yet tell you the yield per acre as the threshing is scarcely commenced with us as yet, but I heard to-day that some of my neighbors think they will have about 50 bushels to the acre of a small piece of the Diehl variety. We find this variety does not stand our deep snows as well as the others, but where it comes out in the spring all right, "it is the wheat," although I must fully concur in your statements as regards its shelling and sprouting propensities. Dear me, how it did tease me last year. Being a wet harvest, it would grow in spite of all I could do; it even grew in the stook. But I was not discouraged; I thought when it was so keen for growing I would let some of it have a chance, so I sowed about ten acres of barley and pea stubble with it, and I have a splendid crop. It did grow well. I may just say that I procured my seed from Mr. Springer, Hamilton, and this is the third year of its growth, and I may safely say it is now as pure as when I received it, for I was under the necessity of hand-picking it the first year, and you may be sure I gave vent to some of my experience in regard to advertisements of good seed wheat. Believing you will still continue to give full and reliable information of the merits and demerits of the different kinds of seeds as they come under your notice, I will wait until I receive the next number of your paper before I decide what change to make of my seed. Wishing you success in your undertaking for the public weal,
I remain yours, &c.,
D. HUNTER.

Craigvale P.O., July 31st, 1871.

Mr. Hunter's cause of complaint is no uncommon one. We are most careful in seeing that all our subscribers' papers are duly mailed here, but cannot follow them to their destination. However, in such cases where the Post Office arrangements fail in being carried out, we always, on being informed, re-mail the undelivered copies when we have them about us, which, under the circumstances, is all we can do.

We are extremely pleased with Mr. Hunter's remarks, and regret very much we cannot test seeds on our own farm to a much greater extent than we have hitherto done, from the meagre support given us by those most interested in it. Our plans were much approved of by the Governor, Sir John Young, John A. Macdonald and others, at the Provincial Exhibition held at London in 1869, and obtained the promise that the Minister of Agriculture would see that they should be encouraged. That is all the aid we ever have had from that quarter, or ever likely to have. The testing of various seeds has entailed

large outlay and heavy loss upon us as yet, and our main stay of hope for support to carry on our Emporium plans more extensively rests on the farmers of the Dominion, who have proved themselves to be our most trustworthy friends. Let them subscribe for and write for their own paper, the *FARMER'S ADVOCATE*, and we pledge ourselves to spend and be spent to the utmost of our abilities and means in working for the agricultural interests of the Dominion, and in advocating all that is likely to further the advancement of the same.

Editor Farmer's Advocate.

The Apiary.

SIR.—I would like to give information to others if I had the faculty for doing so; I often ask people to come and see my bees and would like to give them a better idea than by just giving them a description of management. I have been experimenting this season with an imported Italian queen from Mr. H. A. King, of New York, and have been rather successful. On June 19th I introduced her into a stock successfully and raised five queens which I found laying and five more not laying, but quite young. I am also experimenting with another in a fertilizing cage after Mrs. Tupper's plan. Artificial impregnation appears to be the great question before beekeepers at the present time. I have had a desire for some time to write an article on wintering bees in the open air, but my time is too fully occupied at present. I have under way a honey extractor which I intend to exhibit at Kingston with other articles. Extracting honey is quite a new idea in this country, and it takes us some time to get into the improvements that our American cousins have, but the time is coming when honey will be taken from bees and they will not make new comb in the top boxes, but will fill the old comb in the body of the hive.

Any agricultural paper to be up to the times now, must devote a portion of its space to bee-keeping.

Yours, &c.,

B. LOSIE.

We intend devoting more attention to the bee question in future, but hope Mr. Losie, or some other apiarian will oblige us with an article each month to show the plain farmer how to keep his bees with less loss and enable him to extract the honey without the destruction of the comb. It is our desire to learn and practice more the mode of treating the bees in the movable frame hives, to teach which is the best hive, the best kind of bee, the best mode of management, and to ascertain which is the best honey extractor. Some say they do not want anybody to teach them how to use an extractor, as they perfectly understand that part of the business, but they destroy as much of the wax as a bear would.

Editor Farmer's Advocate.

Orchard Grass.

SIR.—Have you any of the Orchard Grass seed for sale, and if you have, at what price? Please inform me how it stands the drought; what kind of land is suitable for it; how much is sown per acre and when it should be sown? I want to sow a field of green feed for cows and calves, for next season, and I should like to know if there is anything would answer better than orchard grass.

Yours, &c.,
T. G. CHATE.

Warsaw, Aug. 5th, '71.

We have not raised any orchard grass ourselves, but have seen it growing, and we know of nothing that will grow quicker for spring feed. We believe it will do to sow either in the spring or fall. We have not the seed at present, but will try and procure some. We should feel obliged if some of our readers that have raised it, would send us an article on it. We believe it will be much more grown as soon as its advantages are known, but it takes a number of years to learn its full advantages and get it generally introduced.