

view, 264 miles. To say that the people of the Prairie Province are jubilant over the prospects of a busy fall and winter in all lines of trade, is putting it mildly, and coupled with the rapid advance in values for all kinds of farm produce, the returns must place a great number of our worthy farmers, who have not already reached that most desirable point, in an independent position.

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Since the day of the opening of the country to general settlement, there have always been grumblers in Manitoba; men who claim to believe that the country was going to the dogs; that there was not sufficient employment for the inhabitants already here, and generally that it was a good country to leave. However, in our estimation, a farming community numbering not more than 25,000 heads of families, who can take on and give employment for some three months in nearly every year, from 5,000 to 6,000 extra harvest hands, cannot to say the least be very near a starving condition, and need not be looking towards the Klondyke of the Alaskan Mountains for gold mines to develop.

While the crop conditions have been good in Manitoba and the North-West since the beginning of July, probably no better weather ever favored the advancement of beef cattle feeding on the prairie pasture, and the full trains of fat steers daily rolling over the tracks of all the Manitoba Railways, loudly testify that the value of the natural grasses has not been overestimated by the most sanguine believer in the prairies of Western Canada.

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The Industrial Exhibition at Winnipeg, held between the 19th July and the 3rd August, proved this year, as it usually does, a great success, the association coming out with a large surplus after paying very liberal amounts for prizes, and the extensive attractions which are becoming such a necessary addition to all our Canadian Industrial Fairs. The

district about the Farm, as it has hitherto done, obtained quite its proportion of awards; and it is thought that Russell can still lay claim to the title of the Banner county. Our old friends and supporters, Messrs. D. T. Wilson and James Mitchell, carried off prizes on draught horses and cattle respectively at the Exhibition mentioned above, and as some of our old lads have as a rule been employed on these two ranches, I presume we are justified in taking more than a neighbourly interest in the results of the competition.

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Old employees of the Institution will be interested in hearing that at the beginning of August, extensive improvements were set on foot for the purpose of making the Home building somewhat more comfortable for those residing therein. First of all good strong supporting stone walls have been built through the centre of the structure, forming a fine basement cellar and furnace room, a stone foundation is being placed around the entire building, the floors are being brought up to level, and will before Spring be nearly all renewed. Another important innovation will be the fitting up of a chapel, using for this purpose the room which is known to the residents as the "staff mess room." The last mentioned improvement will, we feel sure, be appreciated by our worthy chaplain, the Rev. George Gill; and once the room is fitted as the management desire it to be, the effect should be pleasing to all who have the fortune of being able to attend the services conducted therein. In connection with this subject of church accommodation, the writer must express his regret at having to note the fact that very few of the lads in situations, although appealed to through the columns of UPS AND DOWNS, have seen fit to assist their old friend Dr. Barnardo in the way of sending in financial aid for the purpose of building a Church, and consequently, although to the great disappointment of the Director, the matter has had to be dropped and