

ped by two other sheaves. By the latter method it is claimed that the grain is not so much exposed to the sun, and gets fully matured after being cut. Stacks are made round or oblong, with from eight to ten loads in each, and good tops are put on, as stacks are never thatched, since the fall of the year is very dry, and threshing is usually done before the snow sets in. Threshing is often done on big farms from the stook, when enough men and teams can be got together. Many threshing machines weigh and record the number of bushels threshed.

Wheat is put up in two-bushel sacks, which is a much more convenient way of handling it than in the heavy four-bushel sacks used in Britain. On the cars it is carried in bulk. Traction and portable engines are used for threshing, and occasionally there is still to be found a ten or twelve horse-power gear. The fuel chiefly used for firing is straw. It has to be fed in small quantities, and demands one man's constant attention. Straw is but little valued, and is often burned as soon as the thresher leaves the field. My crop on the Patterson farm turned out better than I expected. Some of the wheat yielded quite 25 bushels an acre, and the oats 40 bushels an acre. Close to the farm buildings near the river, where the land had been cropped for many years, it was dirty and the yield much less. Wheat is not the only grain that can be grown in Manitoba with advantage. I saw many samples of barley, which was being used for feed, that would have brought a high price in the English market. A sample which I sent to England, grown by Mr. MacWatt of Glenlea, near Royal, that I might get a maltster's opinion of it, was highly thought of there. The following was my answer: "Barley worth 38s. per qr. (of 8 bushels), more, if it was better dressed. We have been buying foreign barley better dressed than your sample at 42s., but yours is the very class of barley required for malting purposes." This barley was being fed to cattle, and what was being sold made 40 cents (20d.) a bushel. Had there been a larger quantity, which could have been exported to England, it would have been one dollar and five cents a bushel. Farmers here have never tried to grow barley to any extent; but in my opinion it would be a more profitable crop than wheat, as it can be grown in a shorter period of time, often being sown in the beginning of June and harvested by the middle of August.