

wheat could not be surpassed, if equalled, in any part of the world. The cattle and horses roaming over the prairies and feeding on the nutritious bunch grass were in the most perfect condition, requiring no care except that of herding. At Regina, I visited several farmers, among them Mr. McIntyre, who came from Ontario and owns a farm of 2,000 acres. Mrs. McIntyre, when offering me a glass of milk, informed me that she could get as much milk and butter from five cows as she could from eight in Ontario. This statement was corroborated everywhere. Artesian wells are necessary for farm and domestic purposes, and will doubtless prove to be of great service to the present settlers in districts where they are required, and will also tend to promote the settlement of the country. The early settlers, as a rule, cannot afford the expense of boring, especially where great depths have to be reached to find water. I wrote to Dr. Selwyn, the Director of the Geological Survey, and I have his reply here:

“OTTAWA, 6th Feb., 1890.

“DEAR SIR,—I have received your note of the 4th instant. Yesterday I called on you at the Senate, but found you had left town. I, however, left a pamphlet for you with Mr. Creighton, in which I think you will find much of the information you seek. I visited the Dakota wells last summer, or at least some of them, and what I learned induced me to recommend the Government to assist the Deloraine people to continue the well there to a depth not less than that at which the great water-bearing stratum has been struck in the wells to the south, viz., about 1,800 feet. I have no official report on the Dakota wells, but nearly the same geological structure prevails through Kansas, Nebraska and Dakota, into Canada.

“I am, dear Sir,

“Yours faithfully,

“ALFRED R. C. SELWYN.”

By means of geological science the location where water is to be found can be accurately indicated. Hon. gentlemen have no doubt read of the renowned application of geological science in France over fifty years ago. If I am not trespassing too much on the patience of the House I will read a short account of it:

“Renowned application of geological science: Arago's prediction of a store of pure potable water in the deep dipping green sand stratum beneath the city of Paris was one of the most brilliant applications of geological science to useful purposes. He felt keenly that a multitude of his fellow citizens were suffering general physical deterioration for want of wholesome water, for which the splendors of the magnificent capital were no antidote. With a foresight and energy such as display that kind of genius that Cicero believed to be in some degree inspired, he

prevailed on the Public Minister to inaugurate in the year 1833 that notable deep subterranean exploration at Grenelle. By his eloquent persuasion he maintained and defended the enterprise, notwithstanding the eight years of labor, to a successful issue, were beset with discouragements; and all manners of sarcasms were showered on the promoters. In February, 1844, the auger, cutting an 8 inch bore, reached a depth of 1,806 feet 9 inches, when it suddenly fell 18 inches, and whizzing now announced that a stream of water was rising and the well overflowed.”

It appears to me to be the fitting work of the Government to help the settlers, and also to promote settlement, to make these borings for artesian wells, not for irrigation purposes, but for farm and domestic use. The irrigation of the district to which I have alluded should be left to private enterprise and individual effort, the surveys to be placed under the charge of a competent scientific officer. Grants of land might be made in the same way as is done for railways. The American Government and our own Government also seem to regard the public lands, not so much as a source of revenue, but a public trust, with the object steadily in view of transferring them to actual settlers at the lowest possible cost. I trust that what I have so far stated will convey to the hon. gentlemen who have not had the good fortune to visit it some idea of the vastness of the country and its capabilities. But beside this great domain of agricultural and pastoral lands to the east of the Rocky Mountains our possessions extend westward to the Pacific Ocean, including the Rocky Mountains, British Columbia and the Island of Vancouver. The mountains are known to contain rich deposits of the precious metals, and in the valleys or glens between mountain ranges there are arable plains, which can be easily irrigated, where required, by the mountain streams, on which grain and vegetables can be grown. The foot-hills of the mountains are covered with a nutritious bunch grass, furnishing food for domestic animals. The wants of the mining population are thus provided for. I myself passed through these mountains—a distance of three hundred miles—from Gold, on the Canadian Pacific Railway, to Kootenay, in Idaho, on the Northern Pacific. I have seen what I am endeavoring to describe. British Columbia and the Island of Vancouver are well known to contain valuable forests, coal mines, and a considerable area of agricultural pastoral lands. Before taking my seat, I cannot help alluding to the rocky and inhospitable region