

“and fairly represents the soil in most of the great wheat-growing districts of Manitoba. It adjoins the city of Brandon and is near the centre of one of the best agricultural sections in the Province. It has an abundant supply of spring water of excellent quality, is beautifully situated, and is within full view of passing trains on the Canadian Pacific Railway.”

Mr. S. A. Bedford was appointed Superintendent and took possession of the farm in July, 1888, just five years ago. The transformation, in that short time, from the virgin prairie to the richly cultivated farm that is the central interest to every agriculturist living in or visiting this Province, is simply marvellous.

A wide avenue runs through the centre of the lower farm, dividing the pasture from the grain land—(it being used as public highway by the people of the district,) and from it large gates lead into the semi-circular avenues that traverse the grain farm. The trees planted on either side of the avenues already cast a pleasant shade, although the oldest only of four year's growth, and around the whole farm are rows of trees which, even now, form a good wind-break from all directions.

The following natural products are being tested on the farm at the present time: Grain, grasses, fodders, field and garden vegetables, trees, shrubs, etc., and these experiments have now been conducted for four years.

With grain the experiments have not only included tests of varieties but also trials of different preparations of soils, modes of sowing, harvesting, etc. Varieties of grain, grasses, and trees have been obtained from nearly all parts of the world. Early ripening wheats from India and Russia, grasses and fodder plants from Germany and France, large fruits from

Ontario and Northern Europe, forest trees and shrubs from nearly all countries on the globe.

In addition to the direct benefits conferred on the public by the farm in introducing various varieties of farm products, a large sum is saved annually by the prevention of expenditure of money for inferior varieties of seeds, trees, etc., which have been tested and found unsuitable for either soil or climate. Not only are improved varieties of seed grain introduced from other countries, but a new departure has lately been made in the production of new varieties by means of hybridization, a crossing of one variety with another, thus producing a new and distinct variety. A number of these crosses, principally hybrids, between Red Fyfe and early ripening varieties of wheat, have been experimented upon, and it is expected that some of the results will not only partake of the excellent milling qualities of Red Fyfe, but will combine the early ripening qualities of their other parent.

Another branch of the work of this farm, is to distribute products that have proved particularly well adapted to this province. Every year hundreds of farmers are supplied with samples of grain, grasses, and trees. This not only gives the progressive farmer new varieties, but enables him to test them under varying conditions.

The farm is also found useful as an object lesson, and, with this in view, care was taken at the start to locate it in the most accessible point in the province, and, in the centre of one of the best agricultural districts, as evidenced by the increasing number of visitors, which reaches annually from five to six thousand, who, with the farmers, avail themselves of the opportunity of learning what can and what cannot be grown.