

Their ages were from 26 to 67; average age, 43. Forty-five are married, one a widower, and six single. Their families consist of 100 male and 87 female children.

Their religion:—1 none, 1 Christian, 3 Lutherans, 7 Roman Catholics, and 40 Protestants.

Their previous occupations were:—23 farmers, 1 rancher, 1 clergyman and professor of agriculture—(48), 1 clerk, 1 mechanical engineer, 1 cabinetmaker, 1 shoemaker, 1 analytical chemist, 3 carpenters, 3 laborers, 1 none previous, 2 shepherds, 1 gold miner, 1 fruit grower, and 1 civil engineer.

Their present occupations are:—All farmers, except one (24), who is a land surveyor, while three others combine the business of farming with the duties of a clergyman, an architect, and a merchant, respectively.

The places of birth were:—15 Ontario, 10 Scotland, 9 England, 4 Ireland, 2 Quebec, 1 Manitoba, 7 United States, 2 Norway, 1 Russia, and 1 Germany.

Their residences immediately previous to settling in Alberta were:—20 Ontario, 13 United States, 6 Manitoba and N. W. T., 4 England, 4 Scotland, 2 British Columbia, 2 Nova Scotia, and 1 Ireland.

The settlements and number of people heard from therein were:—Sturgeon 4, Morinville 2, Fort Saskatchewan 1, Lewisville 1, Horse Hills 2, Stony Plain 5, Poplar Lake 3, Clover Bar 7, South Edmonton 9, Belmont 3, Rabbit Hill 1, St. Albert 5, Sandy Lake 2, Long Lake 1, Beaver Lake 4, Wetaskiwin 1, and Red Deer 1. Owing to the wide range of country covered—120 miles north and south by 66 miles east and west—their experiences are varied.

The date of settlement ranges from 1875 to 1895.

The average time they have been engaged in farming is 14-2 years, of which an average of 8-4 years represents their experience in Alberta.

CHAPTER IV.

Climate—What the Farmers Say.

What is your opinion of the climate
GENERALLY?

Forty-five replied to the question. The replies were:—25, good; 3, excellent; 1, unsurpassed; 1, unequalled; 1, fair; 1, temperate; 1, well pleased; 1, pleasant to most people; 1, on the whole good; 1,

best in Canada; 1, very healthy; 2, healthy; 1, good and healthy for man and beast; 1, entirely healthful, especially for those with lung and throat affections; 1, healthful, bracing air, plenty of sunshine, no bad storms such as tornados and blizzards; 1, taken as a whole, I don't know a better climate for man and beast, and I have known all Europe, part of Asia, and much of America; 1, very changeable; 1, cold. Seven made no reply.

SPRING?

Eleven did not answer. Forty-one replied:—17, good; 1, perfect; 1, nice; 1, temperate; 1, excellent; 1, generally good for seeding; 4, very favorable; 1, windy, otherwise all right; 4, late; 1, backward and windy; 1, cold and backward; 1, cold nights. 1, rather cool; 2, dry and cold; 1, dry; 1, rather dry; 1, variable; 1, changeable; 1, usually dry, but melted snow supplies moisture to the soil; 1, rather cold and dry generally; 1, backward.

SUMMER?

Nine did not reply. Forty-three answered:—27, good; 1, nice; 1, pleasant; 2, excellent; 1, temperate; 1, hot and showery; 1, bright; 1, bright and warm, sometimes too dry; 1, variable; 1, short; 1, none; 1, cool and pleasant, with hot, dry spell in July; 1, cool and damp; 1, cool, with frequent showers; 1, warm days, cool nights; 1, showers begin in June and continue through the summer.

AUTUMN?

Forty-three replied:—23, good; 1, unequalled; 2, excellent; 1, beautiful; 1, very pleasant; 1, dry and invigorating; 1, nice and clear; 1, temperate; 1, early; 1, short; 1, fine warm days, but cool nights; 1, generally very fine; 1, nice and pleasant till 15th November; 1, very pleasant during October and first part of November.

WINTER?

Forty-one replied:—26, good; 1, cold and pleasant; 1, best in Canada; 1, pleasant; 1, no blizzards, cold with mild spells; 1, cold and clear; 1, long and cold; 3, cold; 1, rough; 1, cold, but no storms to speak of; 1, mild and fine to first January, cold and windy to February, balance fine and mild; 1, quite cold some days; 1, long, with very cold spells; 1, dry, variable as to snow fall, like the best of our English winters,