



AN INDIAN'S HOMESTEAD. NEAR DUCK LAKE.

prices, the cost of production being small. In this branch there is ample room for extension and no danger whatever of over-stocking the market. Dairying has been conducted hitherto in private dairies only, consequently on a comparatively small scale. Cheese is scarcely made for sale and butter only in moderate quantity. Owing to the richness of the pastures already referred to and the abundance of pure water, butter of the finest quality is made, where proper methods are followed and the necessary care and cleanliness exercised, showing what might be done under the creamery system if it could be introduced. At present, however, owing to the sparseness of the population, this cannot be accomplished, and this branch of the farming industry must be relegated to the future.

Although the sheep industry may be said to be still in its infancy, small flocks are kept by many of the settlers, and Mr. Ditch and Mr. Carter have made a specialty of sheep farming for six or seven years. Both have been quite successful, and judging, not only from their experience, but from that of other flockmasters in the Saskatchewan Valley, nothing is more certain than that this branch is a safe and paying one. Little feed is required in the winter and close stables are hurtful rather than beneficial. The Leicester, Shropshire, Southdown and Merino grades have been introduced, and all succeed well and multiply rapidly. Disease is almost unknown, the mutton is of the finest quality and the fleeces heavy. The prairie wolf is a natural enemy of the sheep, but with ordinary care the loss from this or any other cause is insignificant.

Pigs are raised universally and yet not in great numbers, for there is not yet any curing establishment in the district or within any reasonable distance, and the consequence is that large quantities of bacon are imported every year. This ought not to be the case and it is hoped a packery may be started in the near future, which would encourage the industry and ultimately be able to supply both the home and export markets with first-class bacon. Owing to the ease with which coarse grains, peas and roots are grown, pigs can be raised very economically. There does not seem to be any marked difference in the feeding values of wheat, oats or barley, weight for weight, and although there is a constant flow of literature in the stock journals about methods of feeding, there is really, so far at least as this country is concerned, no mystery in the matter at all. Common sense and a little practical experience supply all the information requisite and it is the simplest matter in the world to raise pigs here yielding the finest pork, safely and cheaply enough, both summer and winter.

With respect to agriculture, it may be stated that grain and roots of all kinds have been grown continuously since the first settlement of the district and there is now nothing problematical about the success of this branch of the farming industry. As mentioned before, there is a variety of soil, which ranges from the deep heavy loam, bearing in its natural state a luxuriant growth of hay and peavine, to the light sandy loam carrying the shorter and harder grasses of the prairie. It is necessary to vary crop and culture accordingly, and so all skillful farmers do. It is not claimed and should not be expected that any kind of seed, thrown into any kind of soil, worked in a careless and slovenly manner, will yield a good return. Good farming is here exactly what it is elsewhere, and under ordinary conditions of weather, proper adaptation of seed to soil and skillful culture, an adequate return may be confidently expected. Wheat is of

with reliable data from other localities, leads to the conviction that in no degree is this district worse off on an average than Manitoba and the North Western States of the Union. With the single exception of the year 1887, there has been no appreciable damage from frost within the last 10 years, and as no wheat growing country is free from fluctuations of some kind, I am not sure that a better record can be shown anywhere. It is believed that with more general settlement and progressive agricultural methods, injury from frost will be greatly lessened, if not entirely obviated.

After what has been said about wheat, it is not necessary to say much about the other grains, except that they are grown here just as successfully as elsewhere. Oats, black and white, are grown all over the district, chiefly for local consumption. Oat straw, especially if the crop has been cut a little on the green side, is valuable for winter fodder, and both horses and cattle will thrive upon it. Wheat and barley straw are also fed to cattle. The common four-rowed barley has been mostly grown, and two-rowed has been tried experimentally with good results. The average yield of grain per acre is necessarily something of a guess, as there is no reliable means of obtaining crop statistics for the whole district. With this explanation, it may be said, a fair acreage is considered to be 20 to 30 bushels for wheat, 40 to 60 for oats and 30 to 50 for barley. Peas do very well, but only a small acreage is grown. Timothy is the only cultivated hay that has been tried as a crop, and where the soil is suitable, that is to say where not too dry, it succeeds well. Potatoes yield heavy crops of fine quality, and all kinds of field roots give great returns. Although awes, mangolds and carrots are as yet only cultivated on a limited scale, they are all found to be heavy croppers, while for vegetables and all garden produce the district cannot be excelled.

The greatest drawback the Saskatchewan farmer has to contend with at present is distance from the market, the long land carriage and consequent high rate of freight. This has been brought home to him more pointedly than before, since the price of wheat in Britain, which rules the world's quotations, has fallen lower than ever, and now stands at a figure heretofore unheard of. It is well known that land carriage costs in comparison with ocean freight something like 12 to one. The great desideratum therefore for this district, in common with the rest of the Northwest Territories, is the speedy opening of the Hudson's Bay route, which will bring us as near Britain, the great open market for this continent, in cost of freight, as any country in the world exporting agricultural produce. Were this route opened an accomplished fact, the impetus to agriculture thereby given would be incalculable and the fertile belt would quickly be occupied by tens of thousands of thriving families.

The Supply of Wood and Water.

This is a question of vital importance in any farming country. As to wood for fuel there is any amount in any part of the Duck Lake district; the different woods found here, are poplar, willow, spruce, tamarac, fir or jack pine, birch, ash and the soft maple. Poplar is found anywhere on the



FARMERS MARKETING GRAIN AT DUCK LAKE.