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# THE FERTILE BELT

F. X. LEMIEUX, Conclusions, Ottawa, Ont.

VOL. I.

BRANDON, MANITOBA, FEBRUARY, 1898.

No. 1.

## MANITOBA.

### Its Position, Institutions, Commercial and Social Advantages.

People residing south of the international line that divides Canada from the United States frequently have only an imperfect knowledge of the country to the north of them. They are apt to think that from Minnesota and Dakota northward it is all the same, and are often unaware that while Manitoba and some parts of the Territories beyond are becoming the greatest wheat producing countries of the world, other portions are no less remarkable for the facilities they offer to stock-raisers.

The Province of Manitoba lies north of and along the western part of Minnesota and the eastern portion of Dakota. It is already famous both on this continent and in Europe for the quality of its wheat. Manitoba No. 1 Hard stands at the head of the wheat list, and realizes a higher price at Liverpool than any other. The farmers there, however, do not now give their attention solely to wheat. Mixed farming is very largely practiced, and the highest class beef is raised on the Manitoba prairies. A large proportion of the fat cattle shipped from Montreal to Europe comes from Manitoba and the Territories beyond. Many men who went into Manitoba without ten dollars belonging to them are now prosperous farmers owning their own freehold, and some who are considerable shippers of cattle began with hardly enough to buy a carload.

#### SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

It is intended in this article to show wherein lies the difference between the several sections of Western Canada, and thus enable an intending settler to form, before starting for the west, a rough idea as to the locality he will pull up in. But as there is much unknown concerning Canada and its ways, form of government, school system, railways, etc., by those living at a distance, it may be well to give shortly a few facts on these points.

Canada is governed by a parliament elected by all the people. This body assembles at Ottawa, the capital of the Dominion, once a year. The Canadian parliament corresponds to the congress of the United States which sits at Washington. The several provinces are governed in their provincial matters by a local legislature elected by the people and sitting at the capital of each province. These correspond to the state legislatures in the United States. The settled portions of the country are also divided into municipalities for the regulation of purely local affairs. There are no taxes, therefore, except such as the people may themselves choose to impose. The federal government out of the general revenue of the country pays each province a certain annual subsidy. In Manitoba this amounts to about \$2 per head of the population, and this is spent with such other moneys as may be raised in the province in defraying the necessary expenses of the government and in support of schools,

roads, bridges, agricultural societies, etc. The taxation to the farmer is about half that which he pays in the United States. Cattle, which are taxed at so much per head on the ranches of the United States, are free in Canada.

In Manitoba there is an exemption law; that is, the law protects from seizure where no mortgage exists, a certain acreage and buildings, a certain number of cattle, horses, pigs and fowls, some householder's effects and a year's provisions, so that if a farmer who has not mortgaged his property is overtaken by misfortune he can not be turned out of his house and home, but obtains time and retains the means of living while he recovers himself. When he requires to borrow, as he may sometimes do with advantage to himself, he will find English and eastern Canadian companies who will lend on farm property at from 6 to 8 per cent., and who are easy in their dealings with honest clients.

#### SCHOOLS.

The school system of Manitoba is designed to meet the requirements of a mixed population more or less scattered. The rural schools are about every three miles or so apart in the settled

ber is now 1,113, about the one-half males, and there appears to be no scarcity, as 1,017 new certificates were granted during the past year. These figures show, on the average, one teacher for every 210 people, and for every 33 children. The entire value of the school properties of the country is now \$750,351, or nearly \$3 per head of the entire population, a condition of things to be envied by many an older country. The average salary paid to teachers in rural districts is \$368 a year, and the highest in cities is \$1,800. In addition to teachers being all well certificated, the schools are inspected at intervals by competent teachers to see that the most approved methods are fully observed.

There is no state church in Canada. Every religion is alike in the eyes of the law, and there are churches of various denominations in all the towns and villages throughout the country. There are many friendly societies in Manitoba with the headquarters in the cities and branches in the smaller places, and the meetings of these with other friendly gatherings contribute to the social enjoyment of the people.

An important feature from the farmers' point of view are the government Experimental Farms, where all the different kinds of grain seeds, roots, vegetables, grasses, small fruits, trees and shrubs, that it is sought to grow in the province are cultivated on the varied soils which are found on the farm, and a faithful record of the results is preserved, for the information of the entire agricultural population of the country, and occasionally published in the newspapers, of which most of the small towns have one and the cities several. Experimental Farms are to be found in Manitoba, the North-west Territories, and British Columbia.

In addition to this the Government sends around to the towns and villages a travelling school of dairy instructors. In these schools lectures are given, accompanied by practical operations, by competent men, in all the arts of cattle raising, butter and cheese making, etc., that all may learn the best methods known to the country without loss of time or money to the settlers who wish to take up dairying.

#### THE SOIL.

The soil of Manitoba varies, of course, but generally speaking it is a deep black argillaceous loam on a subsoil of deep clay, and stands a great deal of cropping without manure. Snow disappears early in April, seeding begins about a week afterwards and harvesting about the middle of August.

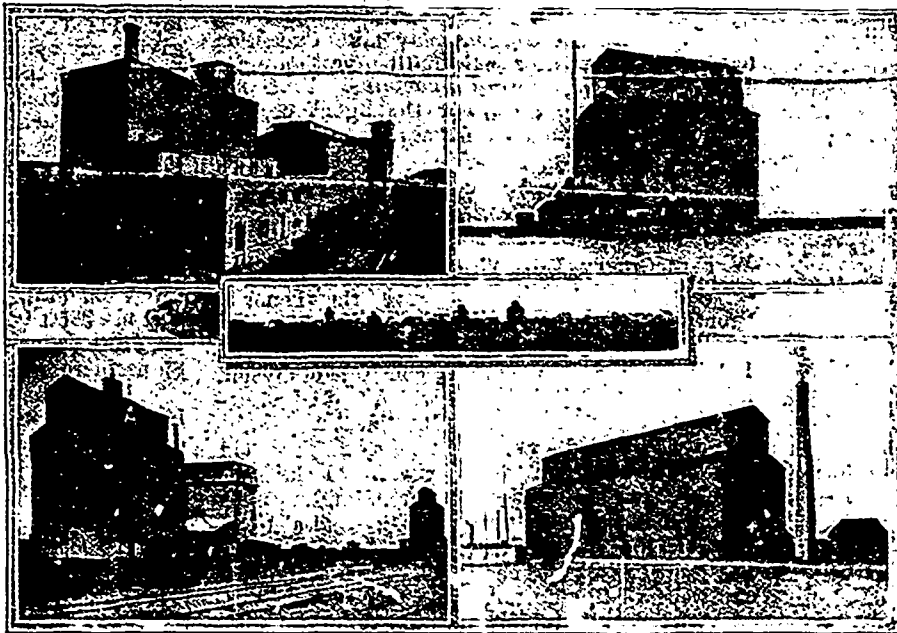
#### RAILWAYS.

The main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway runs through the Province of Manitoba, east and west, but it has branches running in all directions. The Manitoba and Northwestern is another line running through a portion of Manitoba, and the Northern Pacific railway running from St. Paul through Minnesota and Dakota has two branches in Manitoba.

#### FREIGHT RATES.

One result to the farmer of the excellent railway facilities in this province is that freight rates are lower than in the neighboring state of Dakota.

Winnipeg is the capital of Manitoba. It is a city of about 45,000 inhabitants, and possesses a

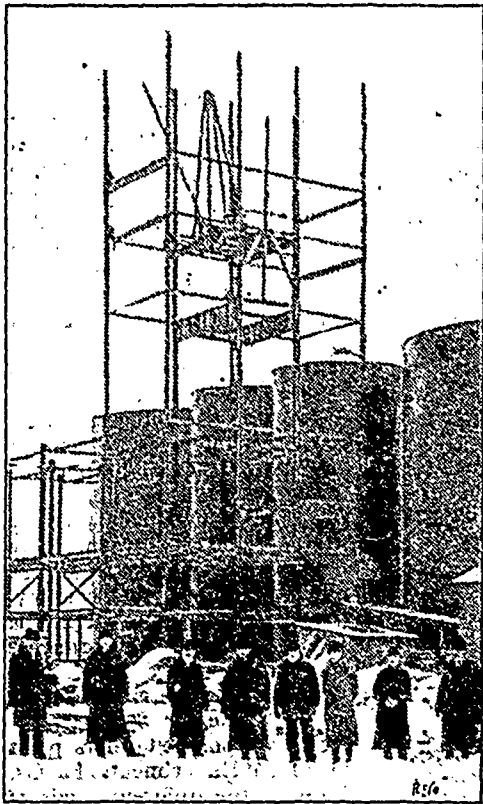


ELEVATORS AT FORT WILLIAM.

districts, and the system is free. There is no taxation of pupils for attendance. The Government makes an annual grant of a considerable sum to each school, and all the expenses, teacher's salary included, are paid by this grant, and a general taxation of the land within the district, whether occupied or unoccupied, or owned by parents or those having no children. This assures the poor all the advantages of primary education that are enjoyed by the rich. The teachers are all skilled educationists, duly certificated. In these schools all the ordinary branches for every-day life are taught. In many of the village schools, where two or more teachers are employed, a still higher education is given, and in the city and town schools collegiate instruction is maintained where students are fitted. The several colleges at Winnipeg and other cities in Canada. One-eighth part of the whole of the "Fertile Belt" from Pembina to the Saskatchewan, and beyond it, is set apart for the maintenance of schools.

In 1881 the school population was 5,064, and now it is 23,000. In 1881 there were 246 teachers in the province, and now there are 1,113. The number of pupils is now 113,000.

the modern contrivances that science has perfected. From this point there are railways to all parts, North, South, East and West. There are two other important towns, Portage la Prairie and Brandon, and many smaller ones along the line of the several railways. At many points along these roads there are elevators, mills, etc., and a settler can purchase anything he may ordinarily require as cheaply as anywhere else and more cheaply than in many parts of the States.



Steel Elevators being built at Fort William

Government land (160 acres) can be had free, the only charge being a registration fee of \$10, but in occupying free land the settler is required to live some part of the year on his land for three years, except under special circumstances. Railway land is about \$3 an acre but this can be paid for in annual installments with small interest extending over ten years. Of late years there has not been so much free land to choose from, the best having been selected and occupied, but recently a new branch line of railway has opened up the Dauphin district and a large acreage of first class land is now available. It will not, however, long remain so. Indeed considering the way European and American visiting delegates have reported on this province the wonder is that there is any land, government or railway, to be had at all. It is going fast and in a few years those who require land without paying others for it will have to go further west.

It will perhaps corroborate these statements if the letters of actual settlers are read. Here are a few taken hap hazard from many hundreds. The editor of the Banner, Brown City, Mich., paid a visit to Western Canada, and in his paper said: "On August 23 we had the pleasure of visiting the model seven acre garden at Edmonton owned and operated by one Donald Ross, a typical Scotchman and as whole-souled, good-natured an old gentleman as you can meet. He gave the Yankees such a hearty hand-shake as we were introduced in succession by the Canadian government agent, who was our guide and pilot while at Edmonton, and to whom we are indebted for many courtesies conferred. Mr Ross informed us that he cleared from \$800 to \$1,000 annually from the sale of roots, vegetables, flowers and plants. We here state that we never before saw such a growth of vegetables at that season of the year. He said he raised 750 bushels of onions to the acre. Beets were growing as large as your arm, turnips the size of one's head, and cabbages the size of a patent pail. Following are prices Mr. Ross gave us as receiving for his produce: Beets 50c. per bushel, carrots 40c, onions \$1.25, turnips \$5 per ton, cabbage 4c each, green corn 25c per dozen, tomatoes \$1.50 per bushel, potatoes 25 to 30c, cauliflower \$1.00 per bushel, cucumbers 15c per dozen, strawberries per box, squash 4c per pound, and other produce in proportion.

Dominion City, Man., Jan. 17, '98

At the request of the Immigration Department of the Canadian government, I give the following information:

I immigrated to Manitoba in October, 1892, from Luverne, Rock county, Minn., and took land in Dominion City, Manitoba, where I now reside. I have been very successful in Manitoba, and have more than doubled my capital since I came to Canada. I took about \$2,500 with me in stock, chattels and cash. I own to-day 1,120 acres of land where I live. My crop this year, 1897, was as follows: \$1,800 worth of wheat, 200 bushels of flax, and 600 bushels of oats. I do mixed farming. I milk as many as ten cows. Dairying and stock raising has paid me very well. I have on the farm now 11 head of cattle and 18 head of horses, and sold during the past year, 1897, \$125 worth of fat cattle. I have good buildings, a good comfortable house and stable. My children have had better school advantages in Manitoba than in Minnesota. The district schools are very thorough and good. My son, now 18 years of age, is teaching the public school in our district and receives a salary of \$420 per year. All my children have done well at school. I have \$1,700 insurance on my buildings on my farm. I also own my personal warehouse and ship all my grain through it to the railway station at Dominion City. It is free of debt.

I have no prejudice against the State of Minnesota as I made a living and a little more while in that State, but would not take a farm as a gift in Minnesota and leave Manitoba. The taxation in Minnesota was too great. I paid taxes on my stock and chattels. No such taxes have ever been exacted in Manitoba from me, and my land tax is about one-half or less than it was in Minnesota. I am delighted with my new home, and expect in a few years to be in circumstances that will enable me to take life easy.

Yours very truly,

S. G. MAYNES.

P. S.—Any person that may take exception to the foregoing letter will kindly investigate for I can back up every word it contains. I am not an immigration agent, nor the agent of any corporation, but simply a farmer.

S. G. M.

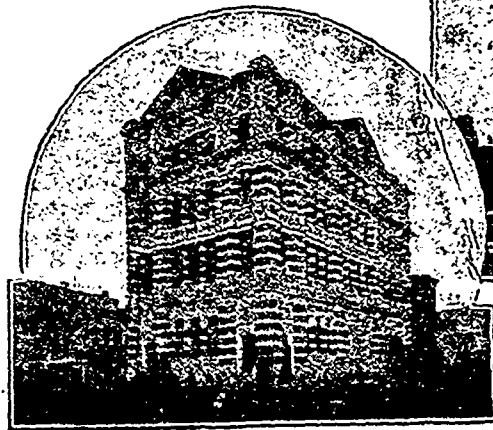
Here is another letter:

Gretna, Manitoba, Nov. 21, 1897.

W. F. McCreary, Esq., Winnipeg.

Dear Sir,—I am glad to have the honor to submit the following report.

I settled here on my homestead, the NE 1/4 3, 1, 1, W, in 1881. My family consisted of myself, my wife and 12 children, of which 5 died afterwards and 7 are alive yet. My oldest 2 daughters are married, my oldest son is 25 years old now and the youngest is 12 years. I had no capital when I came here to start with, but, however, I was always very healthy and also my wife and the eldest children, and we all were anxious to work. The land I have is the best and richest I think a farmer can get. We were very successful with our work in farming. Every year we had a splendid crop and our stock always increased. I came after some years to be



Post Office, Winnipeg.

In a position to pay off my debts that I had made at the start. Now I have 8 horses, 4 cows, and 2 calves, pigs and all necessary farm implements. I have already bought some more land and am in possession of 1,120 acres. I am a German and a member of the Mennonite Church in Russia. If nothing hap-

pens in my family then I intend to make a trip to visit my old country land during this winter to see my parents and sisters and brothers there. I am in such a position to make this trip and can stand the expenses easy. Such a success I have had here in Manitoba on account of having good land, and a good healthy climate and also a good Government which does not press the farmers with high taxes. Yours truly,

ISAAC BRAINN.

For further information write to any of the following:

M. V. McInnes, No. 1 Merrill Block, Detroit, Michigan.  
D. L. Caven, Bad Axe, Michigan.  
James Grieve, Reed City, Michigan.  
J. S. Crawford, 408 Board of Trade, Kansas City, Missouri.  
Benjamin Davies, 151 East Third Street, St. Paul, Minn.  
T. O. Currie, Stevens Point, Wisconsin.  
C. J. Broughton, 1223 Monadnock Building, Chicago, Ill.  
W. V. Pennett, 802 New York Building, Omaha, Neb.  
W. Ritchie, Grafton, N. Dakota.  
W. H. Rogers, Watertown, S. Dakota.  
I. H. M. Parker, 502 Palladio Building, Duluth, Minn.  
A. S. Rollo, Boise City, Idaho.  
N. Bartholomew, 316 Fifth St., Des Moines, Ia.  
D. H. Murphy, Stratford, Ia.

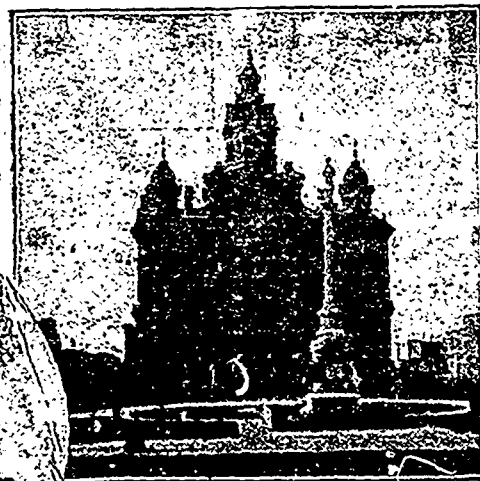
## SUCCESSFUL FARMING.

Jas. Boyce, Formerly of Michigan, Gives His Opinion of the Canadian Northwest.

Parkisimo, Man., Jan. 15, '98

Thinking it might be of some passing interest to my former Brown City and Maple Valley friends, I attempt to write a brief letter giving my opinion of this country as I know it from an experience of six and a half years of residence here. I have thought the most direct way of reaching the greatest number of Maple Valley people would be to impose on the good graces of the editor of the Brown City Banner to publish the letter. I came here from Brown City, Mich., in April, 1892, with my family. Rented 160 acres for 3 years at \$80 cash rent. Before the time was up I bought it for \$1,000. I owe \$400 on it. I bought a fine team then that cost me \$350. A similar team can now be bought for \$150. Since then I have bought 160 acres at \$5 per acre, making me a farm of 320 acres.

Last summer we built a stone stable and barn 31x102 feet with an l. 18 feet long at a cost of \$1,000. It will hold over 50 head of cattle and horses.



City Hall, Winnipeg.

Last season I harvested 65 acres of wheat getting 1500 bushels of wheat which I sold at 75 cents per bushel, 1175 bushels of oats, 200 bushels of barley; my oats went 60 bushels to the acre. I raised 100 bushels of potatoes, I am wintering 22 head of cattle and 18 horses.

My son Brock came out here in 1891, aged 16, worked 2 years then started to homestead, took a cancelled claim for \$20, now has 70 acres, broke, raised last season 400 bushels of wheat, has his homestead duties all done, good

It, concrete stable 16x24 and all clear of debt, new wagon, buggy, plows, harrows, and owes no man a cent.

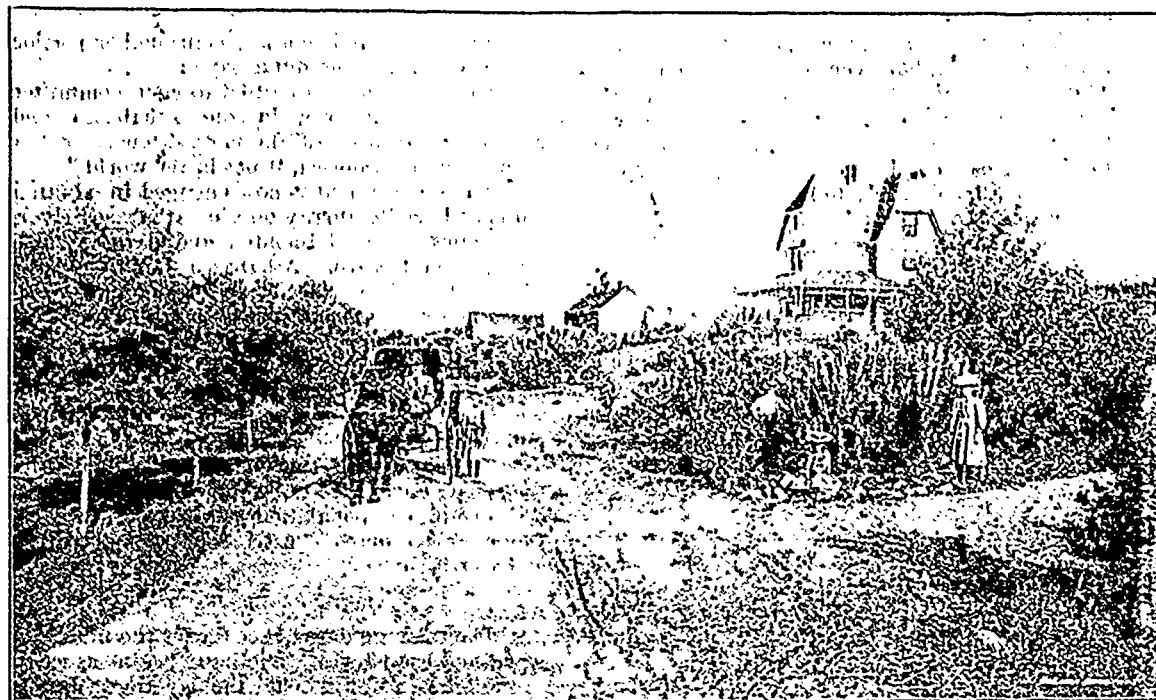
My health previous to moving here for 15 years was poor, I and my family have enjoyed the best of health ever since we came, I believe there is no healthier country under the sun. The best of water and plenty of it is had at a depth of

crops and higher quality in the product. To attain the object first named, practical information has been given in regard to the best methods of maintaining the fertility of the soil and of renewing the cropping capabilities of land which has been partially exhausted. The proper care of barn-yard manure has been discussed and the effects of fertilizers on various crops demonstrated

The object lessons which have been given in the raising of fodder crops and the converting of these into ensilage, thus providing succulent food for cattle during the winter have greatly stimulated the dairy industry, especially the manufacture of butter in winter, also the economical fattening of steers, thus affording more profitable employment for farm labor during the winter months. The experiments which have been conducted in reference to the economical production of butter of the highest quality and the best management of milk to secure the most complete separation of the butter fat have commanded much attention from those engaged in this special industry. The demonstrations which have been made by the feeding of swine with the coarser and inferior cereals and the otherwise waste products of the farm and converting these into pork has stimulated and enlarged the swine industry. The business in eggs and dressed fowls for the table has also been advanced by the publication of results obtained from experiments in the poultry branch of the Experimental farm work.

The difficulties which settlers experience in the more remote portions of the Dominion where the climatic extremes are greater, have also been carefully considered and means devised for their benefit. Many experiments have been made in the treatment of the soil with the view of conserving moisture, also in the introduction of suitable fodder crops and grasses. To the experimental farms are due the credit of the introduction into the Canadian North west of the Awless Bromo Grass (*Bromus inermis*) and of demonstrating its value both for hay and pasture, thus supplying a want which stood much in the way of successful cattle raising and dairying. The general cultivation of this useful grass, which endures severe drought and intense cold with impunity, gives early and succulent green food and large crops of nutritious hay, is preparing the way for a vast extension of the cattle trade and also of the butter and cheese industries.

The instructive experiments which have been carried on in the testing of many varieties of large and small fruits have served to show where these can be grown to advantage and by skilful cross-fertilization on hardy wild forms new and improved sorts are being produced, some of which will, it is believed, prove useful as well as hardy enough to eventually furnish the settlers throughout the Northwest country with some of those healthful and agreeable luxuries which nature has given with such a liberal hand to those who dwell in those portions of the country where the climate is more genial. The cultivation of vegetables and the encouragement given to



Brandon Experimental Farm—Superintendent's Residence and other Buildings

from 10 to 20 feet, the soil is a black sandy loam and is from 2 to 3 feet deep and sandy below. One more good crop and I will care for no man so far as debts are concerned. My wheat has never yet been frozen. This country is a sure cure for asthma. We have had to draw our produce 20 miles to a market but will have a railroad within 2 miles of us next summer. I have two binders, two mowers, two sets harrows, two new wagons, granary 20x30 feet, stone foundation and need only a new house. The temperature drops to 30 and 40 degrees below zero but we do not mind the cold so much as in Michigan owing to the dryness of the atmosphere. Never have seen a blizzard here yet. The snow falls from one to two feet deep and lays from November till March, we are always through seeding in April. In conclusion I will honestly say to my Michigan friends if you are in business and are making money or if you are farming and are getting ahead and are satisfied with your condition then stay where you are, but if you are struggling along and playing as it were a losing game, then I say come west, take up 160 acres, be economical, industrious, and in a few years you can be independent.

Very Respectfully,  
JAS. BOYCE.

### EXPERIMENTAL FARMS.

What the Federal Government does for Canadian Farmers

In no part of the world does the Government do so much to help the farmer as in Canada. Both Federal and Provincial Governments lend willing aid. The director of Experimental farms in his report for 1897 sums up the work as follows:

From the outset every endeavor has been made to help farmers who were striving to gain that experience which would enable them to cope with difficulties, and to carry on their work to better advantage and with increased profits. Of late years the obstacles in the way of profitable farming have been multiplied owing to the low prices for produce and ever increasing competition; amid such pressing difficulties it was imperative that the larger portion of any work undertaken for the benefit of the farmers of this country should be directed on the practical lines of better methods of farming, and the testing and of such vigorous, productive and varieties of the more important and be likely to result in increased

also the best methods of preparing the soil to receive the seed, the most successful methods of sowing, the quantity of seed to be used and the depth in the soil to which it may be placed to the greatest advantage. Long courses of experiments have also been conducted to demonstrate the best time for sowing the more important crops in the different climates of the Dominion.

To accomplish the ends sought in the second line of work mentioned, suitable varieties of grain and other products have been sought for in every accessible country where climatic difficulties exist similar to our own. To add to the chances of success the art of cross fertilizing has been practised with the object of combining the good qualities of existing varieties in the progeny thus produced. Although the time has been short, a gratifying measure of success has attended the efforts which have been made, our farmers



A Road on the Brandon Experimental Farm

have been aroused to an intelligent interest in this work and new and more prolific strains of seed are fast taking the places of some of the less valuable sorts hitherto grown. A great impetus has been given to this special branch by the judicious and free distribution in sample lots of all the surplus grain of the best varieties produced at all the Experimental farms.

the growing of trees for shelter and ornament, and the stimulus afforded by the example shown and by limited distributions of seeds and cuttings to those who desire to improve their surroundings by the planting of trees and shrubs has had the effect of making many a wilderness bloom and of converting bare and uninviting surroundings into attractive and sheltered homes."

## The Hard Wheat Belt.

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THE WESTERN PUBLISHING COMPANY, LIMITED,  
BRANDON, MANITOBA.

FEBRUARY, 1898.

### ANOTHER KLONDIKE.

The St. Paul Pioneer Press Correspondent on the Edmonton District.

The St. Paul Pioneer Press of Feb. 7th contained the following description of Edmonton district:

"Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, Feb. 4, 1898—After a week's stay in this Northwestern city I am not prepared to say that the new gold fields

Minneapolis and without duty it would be a formidable rival of the Minnesota No. 1 hard.

It should be borne in mind that as an agricultural district Edmonton is in its infancy. In speaking of Edmonton in this article I use it for convenience as covering the northern section of Alberta. The southern section of Alberta, including the Calgary district, is at present devoted very largely to stock raising, and but little general agriculture.

The population of the Edmonton district is placed at 20,000, but even so small a number is doubtless liberal. A very considerable portion of the farmers are from the United States, having been attracted here by the fertility of the soil. Iowa, Minnesota and especially the Dakotas have contributed handsomely to increasing the population of this part of Canada.

#### IMMENSITY OF AREA.

The committee of the Dominion senate appointed to ascertain the possibilities of this great Northwest stated in their report that there is a river navigation of about 2,750 miles, of which 1,390 miles are suitable for stern wheel steamers, which, with their barges can carry 300 tons,

growth of potatoes, and 407,000 square miles suitable for wheat and other small grains. There are 860,000 square miles adapted for stock raising, 29,000 of which is open prairie, the remainder being more or less wooded. Of this they estimate 274,000 square miles, including the prairie, to be arable land. Here is, in the main, an unoccupied and fertile empire.

#### PETROLEUM.

But even this is not all, as in another portion of the report the committee says:

"The evidence submitted to your committee points to the existence in the Athabasca and Mackenzie valleys of the most extensive petroleum fields in America, if not in the world."

The government is now engaged in sinking wells at Fort McMurray on the Athabasca river, 350 miles from Edmonton, and on the Pelican river, 120 miles from Athabasca Landing. Tar crops out on the surface at points along the Athabasca river in sufficient quantities to be gathered in its crude shape and used by the boat builders for caulking. This is a good oil indicator. The belief here is very general that great oil wells will be developed in this region by the government explorations.

The capacity of this country is estimated by the senate committee to be sufficient to support the combined population of Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Austria and parts of France and Russia.

#### STATISTICS FOR FARMERS.

The average date of seeding is the middle of April and the harvest sometimes begins as early as the 5th of August, but the average date is about the middle of August. Haying begins about the 20th of July. Frost very rarely injures crops and usually only those late sown. The rainfall averages about 20 inches. The summers are cool and do not parch the ground, the mercury never going above 92 degrees and seldom as high as that.

The winters are long and cold, but the reports of extremely low temperature are based upon exceptional weather and are not the rule. It is the low range exceptions which have given Edmonton its cold reputation. With the exception that there is good sleighing; though not deep snow, I find the weather no more wintery than when I left St. Paul, and then it was exceptionally mild for Minnesota.

#### YIELDS AND PRICES.

The average yield of wheat in 1894 was 37½ bushels to the acre and in 1897 it was 35 bushels,



Farm Scenes in Manitoba

so many are en route to explore are the greatest source of wealth to this section of country.

They will add to its wealth by the increased market afforded for agricultural products, but right in the soil of Northern Alberta is a wealth concealed, better even than gold mines and more easily attainable.

#### THE SITUATION CHANGED.

By far the greater part of its century of existence Edmonton has been without means of reaching a market, and hence the inducement for agricultural development did not exist. Now the scene is changing. Railroads and the gold excitement combined have created a market and brought it to its doors.

Every man who goes North from Edmonton to the new gold fields (and they are going by the thousand) relies upon Edmonton for his base of supplies, and Edmonton in turn draws upon the surrounding country. The development of the Northern country will not be a transient affair like that at Dawson City, because people can live here. The gold excitement is the means to the end. It will bring thousands of people to the country to stay who would otherwise never have even visited it at all.

#### REACHING THE KOOTENAY.

The great and already populous Kootenay district of British Columbia has been largely a sealed book, supplies going in from Spokane, Wash., but the railroad now being constructed through the Crow's Nest pass is practically an extension of the Calgary and Edmonton line, and affords direct communication from Northern Alberta to the cities, towns and mining camps of the Kootenay.

#### SUPERIOR WHEAT

Thirty years ago, when Edmonton was a thousand miles from anywhere and several thousand from other places, I remember of samples of Saskatchewan wheat being sent to civilization and attracting marked attention by its superior quality. If within a marketable distance from

while the remaining 1,360 miles can be plied by light draft sea-going vessels.

The combined river and lake navigation covers 6,500 miles and could be connected with



Picnic Party in Manitoba

Victoria and Vancouver by way of the mouth of the Mackenzie, the Arctic ocean and Behring strait to the Pacific. The committee adds:

"It is now connected on the south by ninety miles of wagon road between Athabasca Landing and Edmonton with navigable water in the Saskatchewan river."

This brief statement shows the possibilities of an almost unlimited market for Edmonton.

The committee also states that this Northland has 656,000 square miles adapted to the

which is about the crop to be relied upon. Oats average about 50 bushels, barley 38½ bushels of 49 pounds, potatoes 300 and turnips 340 bushels. Wild hay yields two tons to the acre and sells for \$1 per ton. Wheat is bringing 60 cents, oats, barley and potatoes 25 cents each per bushel.

The sales of the 1897 crop already amount to 1,000,000 bushels of wheat, 1,500,000 oats and 300,000 barley. These yields are none of them exceptional, but according to past experience be relied upon for the future.

**COST OF LAND.**

Government and railroad wild lands can be bought for \$3 per acre. Wild lands are held by private parties at \$4.25 and improved lands from \$7 to \$9 per acre. The government gives one-half of the land in each township to actual settlers.

have coal beds of their own. There would be "millions in it" if Minnesota had such coal mines.

**FUR TRADE.**

I have purposely omitted the fur trade as that was an important matter 100 years ago at this point. The climate induces the animals to wear the fur on the outside and that tempts the

years can be given. For the last three years a similar series of test plots to those reported in this bulletin has been conducted under conditions as nearly uniform as it has been possible to secure. The average of the crops obtained are herewith presented.

**OATS.**

The twelve varieties of oats which have averaged the heaviest crops at the experimental farms of Western Canada during the past three years are the following:—

**Experimental Farm for Manitoba.**

Per Acre, Bush. Lbs.		Per Acre, Bush. Lbs.	
Runner	86 16	G. Ida Beauty	72 22
Early Golden Prolific	85 6	Rosedale	71 20
American Beauty	85 20	Bavarian	69 24
Holstein Prolific	77 25	Improved Ligowo	69 4
Golden Grant	77 15	Joanette	69 4
White Schonen	73 1	Columbus	68 11

An average yield of 75 bushels 23 lbs. per acre.

**Experimental Farm for the N. W. Territories.**

Per Acre, Bush. Lbs.		Per Acre, Bush. Lbs.	
Columbus	92 19	Improved Ligowo	84 29
Holstein Prolific	91 3	Wide Awake	83 21
American Beauty	89 1	Early Archangel	83 14
Abundance	86 33	Early Golden Prolific	83 8
White Schonen	85 13	Abyssinia	81 16
Golden Beauty	85 3	American Triumph	80 27

An average yield of 85 bushels 23 lbs. per acre.

The twelve varieties which have produced the largest average crops for the past three years on all the experimental farms, and hence may perhaps be regarded as worthy of being placed at the head of the list for general cultivation are:—

Per Acre, Bush. Lbs.		Per Acre, Bush. Lbs.	
American Beauty	72 10	Holstein Prolific	67 13
Banner	72 7	Improved Ligowo	66 18
Columbus	70 15	White Russian	65 25
G. Ida Beauty	69 1	Wallis	65 18
White Schonen	68 7	Bavarian	64 23
Early Golden Prolific	67 26	Early Gothland	64 22

An average yield of 67 bushels 32 lbs. per acre.

The Abundance, which is also a very promising oat, averaged 61 bushels 17 lbs. per acre, within five lbs. per acre of the Early Gothland.

**TWO-ROWED BARLEY.**

The six varieties of two-rowed barley which have averaged the heaviest crops during the past three years are the following:—

**Experimental Farm for Manitoba.**

Per Acre, Bush. Lbs.		Per Acre, Bush. Lbs.	
French Chevalier	48 46	Thanet	40 27
Sidney	48 9	Canadian Thorpe	38 6
Newton	42 1	Beaver	37 47

An average yield of 42 bushels 31 lbs. per acre.

**Experimental Farm for the N. W. Territories.**

Per Acre, Bush. Lbs.		Per Acre, Bush. Lbs.	
French Chevalier	60 23	Danish Chevalier	55 47
Beaver	57 3	Newton	55 46
Canadian Thorpe	56 4	Prze Prolific	53 33



Hedge of Native Maples

**VAST MARKET.**

Besides the northern water outlets for a market, as already described, and the Kootenay district of British Columbia, with its thousands of population engaged in mining enterprises, to be reached the present year by rail, there is an outlet to the east down the Saskatchewan by steamer to Lake Winnipeg, from thence it is expected rivers will be made navigable to Hudson Bay.

Here is the combination Northern Alberta and the Edmonton district offer as an agricultural proposition:

"Excellent and healthy climate." Free and cheap lands, both wild and improved. Enormous yields. A market so immense it cannot be over-supplied. It is an agricultural Klondike to be obtained for the asking."

**SASKATCHEWAN GOLD.**

"The Saskatchewan Gold and Platinum Mining and Dredge Co." is the name of an English organization recently formed with a capital of \$1,250,000. This company will take five mile leases on the Saskatchewan river and as soon as the ice goes out proceed to dredge for gold. The company claims to have improved methods for saving the gold in washing. As it is now, while there are many in Edmonton who live right at home and subsist by mining during the summer with pick and shovel in the river on which the town stands, they do not secure more than 10 per cent of the actual yield, the gold being so light it is washed away. This English company expects to secure at least 50 per cent and if it does there is no occasion for long and hazardous journeys to new gold fields. You can then reach them by taking the Soo-Pacific cars at the Twin Cities and coming direct to Edmonton with only one change of cars.

**COAL IN ABUNDANCE.**

It is not always that a cold climate has the compensating feature of fuel, but Edmonton has certainly been kindly dealt with by nature. The steep banks of the Saskatchewan river are full of a good grade of bituminous coal. It crops out on the surface and instead of sinking shafts they simply dig straight into the bank. The whole town rests on a coal bed.

At present it is only used for home consumption and the mining is crude. As it is delivered in town for \$2 per ton, it is a bonanza which banishes the rigors of the winter. While as it is now, it is a good grade and the only fuel used in town, better than Iowa and at least equal to the best Illinois coal brought to the Twin Cities, a better grade will undoubtedly be found when it is mined to a greater depth. It is destined to go to the South says that they

cupidity of man to such a degree that Edmonton is still the largest primary raw fur market in America.

**A RETROSPECT.**

When I begin to recapitulate what I find here it seems marvellous. Gold at the very door and also the gateway to the Northern gold fields, rich returns and immense in area. The greatest raw fur market in America. Agricultural resources rarely equalled and never surpassed. An unlimited supply of coal soon to be followed by flowing oil wells. An available and permanent market creating a demand greater and more rapid than the supply can be produced.

This is Edmonton, Canada, a town of 2,000 people, 1,360 miles from the Twin Cities, reached by the Soo-Pacific and its Canadian Pacific connection in three days' travel.

The railroads ought to style the route "Going to Klondike by Rail."

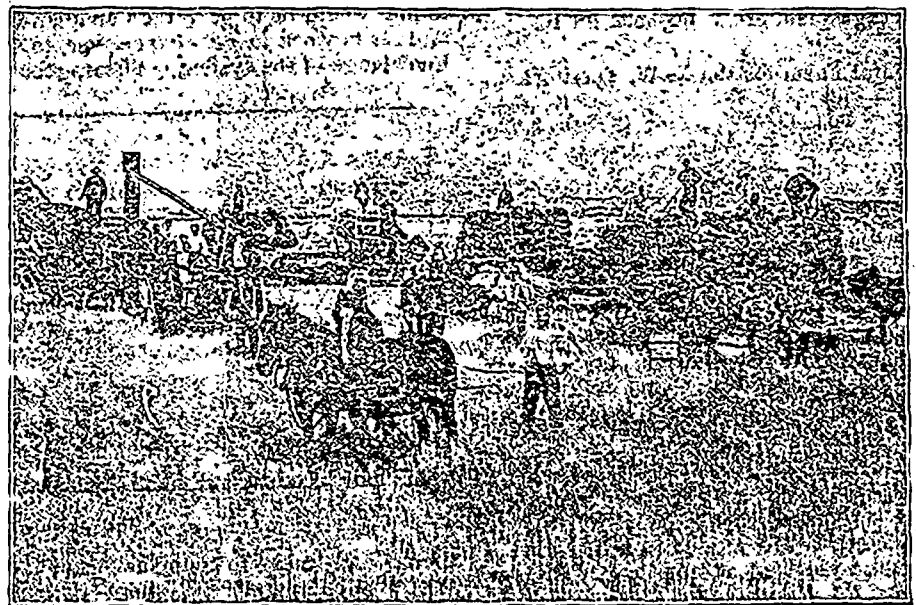
**AVERAGE CROPS.**

Results for the Past Three Years in Western Canada.

(Government Bulletin No. 29).

The results of experimental tests of varieties of grain to gain information as to their relative

productiveness and usefulness, are much more reliable as a guide to the selection of the best sorts when the average experience of several



Harvesting Scene

An average yield of 56 bushels 26 lbs. per acre for all varieties named.

The six varieties of two-rowed barley which

have produced the largest average crops for the past three years on all the experimental farms are:—

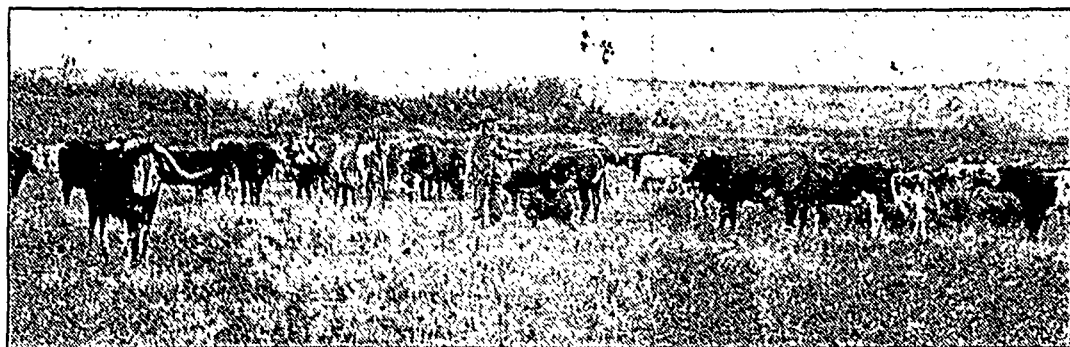
Per Acre Bush. Lbs.	Per Acre Bush. Lbs.
French Chevallier .. 44 25	Newton .. 39 40
Canadian Thorpe.... 41 25	Beaver .. 39 34
Danish Chevallier... 40 42	Sidney .. 39 14

An average yield of 40 bushels 46 lbs. per acre.

Experimental Farm for Manitoba.

Per Acre Bush. Lbs.	Per Acre Bush. Lbs.
Pearce's Extra Early 383 47	Carman No. 1 .. 338 33
Everett .. 363	Great Divide .. 337 20
Early Northern... 360 33	Folans .. 333 40
Pride of the market.. 351 47	Early Puritan .. 332 27
Clarke's No. 1.... 344 40	Lizzie's Pride .. 323 53
Late Puritan..... 343 27	Early White Prize .. 312 57

An average yield of 313 bushels 50 lbs. per acre.



Stock Farming at Cranon Hills

SIX-ROWED BARLEY.

The six varieties of six-rowed barley which have averaged the heaviest crops during the past three years are:—

Experimental Farm for Manitoba.

Per Acre Bush. Lbs.	Per Acre Bush. Lbs.
Mensury .. 54 11	Nogent .. 51 32
Common .. 53 43	Surprise .. 47 31
Trooper .. 52 21	Summit .. 46 15

An average yield of 51 bushels 1 lb. per acre.

Experimental Farm for the N. W. Territories.

Per Acre Bush. Lbs.	Per Acre Bush. Lbs.
Rennie's Improved .. 61 45	Common .. 60 23
Odessa .. 61 35	Oderbruch..... 58 36
Mensury .. 60 40	Trooper..... 57 1

An average yield of 60 bushels 6 lbs. per acre.

The six varieties of six-rowed barley which have produced the largest average crops for the past three years on all the experimental farms are:—

Per Acre Bush. Lbs.	Per Acre Bush. Lbs.
Mensury..... 51 5	Common..... 45 42
Odessa .. 47 10	Royal..... 45 5
Trooper..... 46 43	Oderbruch..... 44 30

An average yield of 46 bush. 38 lb. per acre.

WHEAT.

The twelve varieties of spring wheat which have averaged the heaviest crops during the past three years are the following:—

Experimental Farm for Manitoba.

Per Acre Bush. Lbs.	Per Acre Bush. Lbs.
White Fife..... 38 47	Advance .. 34 53
Preston (2 yrs only) .. 37 65	Crown .. 34 30
Red Fife..... 37	Monarch..... 34 20
Rio Grande..... 35 57	White Connell .. 34 10
Goose..... 35 43	Old Red River .. 33 47
Pringle's Champlain .. 35 57	White Russian .. 32 50

An average yield of 35 bushels 28 lbs. per acre.

Experimental Farm for the N. W. Territories.

Per Acre Bush. Lbs.	Per Acre Bush. Lbs.
Huron..... 41 20	Alpha..... 41 13
Beauty .. 43 37	Preston..... 41 10
Empire .. 43 7	Rideau .. 40 53
Red Fern .. 41 27	Wellman's Fife..... 40 50
Red Fife..... 41 23	Crown .. 40 43
Pringle's Champlain .. 41 23	Herisson Bearded .. 40 40

An average yield of 41 bushels 41 lbs. per acre.

The twelve varieties of spring wheat which have produced the largest average crops at all the experimental farms for the past three years are:—

Per Acre Bush. Lbs.	Per Acre Bush. Lbs.
Preston .. 33 4	Red Fife..... 30 9
Monarch .. 31 2	White Connell..... 30 6
Wellman's Fife..... 30 36	Advance..... 30
White Fife..... 30 25	Goose..... 29 51
Rio Grande..... 30 23	Red Fern .. 29 49
Old Red River .. 30 17	Alpha..... 29 37

An average yield of 30 bushels 26 lbs. per acre.

POTATOES.

The twelve varieties of potatoes which have averaged the heaviest crops during the past three years are the following:—

Experimental Farm for the N. W. Territories.

Per Acre Bush. Lbs.	Per Acre Bush. Lbs.
Lee's Favorite..... 350 36	State of Maine .. 291 57
Northern Spy..... 339	Brownell's Winner .. 283 52
Lizzie's Pride .. 325 48	Empire State .. 283 36
Early White Prize. 307 28	Early Gem .. 280 48
White Beauty..... 298 24	Clarke's No. 1 .. 280 44
American Wonder. 293 20	Late Puritan .. 267 30

An average yield of 300 bushels 15 lbs. per acre.

The twelve varieties of potatoes which have produced the largest average crops for the past three years on all the experimental farms are:—

Per Acre Bush. Lbs.	Per Acre Bush. Lbs.
Late Puritan .. 334 31	State of Maine .. 301 45
Irish Daisy .. 333 42	Carman No 1 .. 300 46
Empire State .. 310 40	Northern Spy .. 297 21
Lee's Favorite .. 310 35	Early Puritan .. 296 48
Clarke's No 1 .. 309 48	Rochester Rose .. 292 28
American Wonder .. 302 11	Chicago Market... 292 20

An average yield of 306 bushels 55 lbs. per acre.

SOUND ADVICE.

The Country for Young Men.

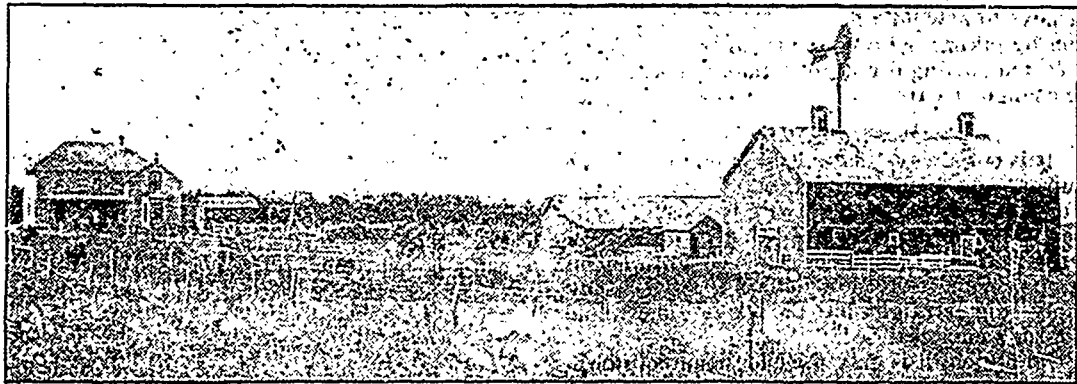
Taking as a text the statement of the late H. A. Massey, of Toronto, that the hardest money to acquire of all the wealth he accumulated was the first \$100, but that having acquired this amount any young man might go ahead and get a competency if not wealth. The Montreal Herald has interviewed a number of the most successful Montrealers. Lord Mount Royal said:—"A young man with \$100 saved, and possessed of good health, a fair education, ordinary intelligence and a will to work, has no occasion to ask odds of anyone, and there can be no reason why he should not be successful in the battle of life. My advice to him would be to go to the Canadian Northwest and set to work to get experience, to acquire a knowledge of the system of farming that succeeds

and feel that there is a successful future for everyone who sets out with the resolute purpose to succeed. One most important thing he must remember, and that is, never under any circumstances to allow himself to get into debt. If he has only a shilling in his pocket, let him be sure never to spend but sixpence or at the most ninepence of it. He will thus not only achieve independence for himself, but be in a position to help others, which I regard as the paramount duty of every man. In recommending the young man with the \$100 to go to our Northwest I would strongly impress upon him the fact that we have no room for mere gentlemen farmers in that country. The farmer there must make up his mind to work, otherwise there is no place there for him. I would also most strenuously discourage parents or guardians from sending to the prairie farms young fellows who are failures at home, and who are not possessed of qualities which would make them successful elsewhere. Such men are absolutely of no conceivable use in Manitoba or the Territories. As regards the amount of the \$100 capital, I want to say that, taken along with the qualities I have mentioned, I consider the capital ample for a start."

Sir William VanHorne, on being asked what he would recommend the young man with the \$100 to do in order to acquire a competency, or possibly wealth, said:—"That, as a general question, does not admit of an answer of any value whatever. If a young man were to come to me and say that he had \$100 which he wished to increase by means of his brains, I could give him no advice. If he had brains he would not ask such a question. But if he were to say that he had \$100, and wished to make a start in the world, and was able and willing to work with his hands, I would advise him without hesitation to go to the Canadian Northwest and get such work as he could with farmers until he should become familiar with the conditions of agriculture there, and then secure a quarter section of land and go to work for himself. In my opinion there is no place in the world where \$100 and a good pair of hands will accomplish so much in a given time. Look at the situation there now. Most of the farmers in the Canadian Northwest will get back from their crops of this year all that their farms cost them, and all that they have expended on them. I don't know of any better business. Of course there will always be bad years and good years, but even a bad year will, with prudent management, afford a good living. I might add," concluded Sir William, smiling, "that the people who have made fortunes for themselves have almost invariably made them without anybody's advice, and the people who have lost fortunes have, I believe, in most cases, been those who were weak enough to follow bad advice."

NORTHERN MANITOBA.

The Swan River country which has just been visited by Mr. Burrows, M.P.P., Hon. Robt. Watson and Mr. Vokes, provincial land inspector, is found to be in character much like that of the Dauphin district and is similarly situated between two elevated ranges, the Duck Mountains and the Porcupine Hills. The country slopes eastward towards the lake and is well watered



Farm Buildings of Hugh Cunningham, Hayfield, Man.

there, and add to his modest capital. He can thus in a comparatively short time not only acquire a farm for himself and pay for it, but he will possess the necessary knowledge to enable him to work it to the best advantage. Such a young man must not think of his present ease, comfort and pleasure, but must look to the future

by numerous small streams, and there is an ample timber supply for building. The valley is eighty or ninety miles long and in width varies from ten to thirty miles. The trail from Dauphin to Swan Lake will be 100 miles long. It is expected that the country will fill up. —Exchange

**SUCCESSFUL.**

He had not five dollars to his name when he landed in Manitoba.

On page eight will be found a cut of the farm house and buildings referred to in the accompanying letter which was sent in June, 1897, to the Sun newspaper, Brandon, Manitoba:

To the Editor of the Sun.

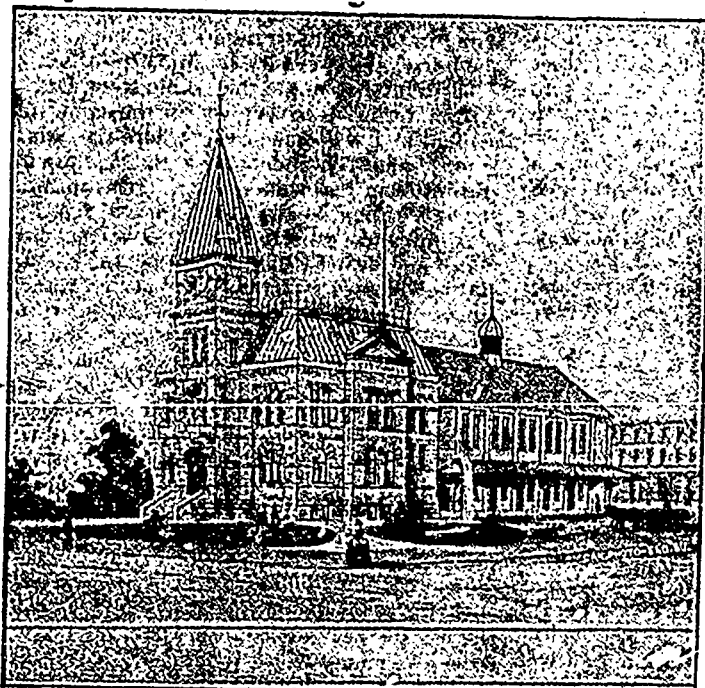
Sir.—Having occasion to drive into the country 15 miles on business on the 29th of May, I took a few notes of the prospects of the crops. From what I saw as my business led me to travel over the prairie last summer as well as this. I noticed that there was a perceptible difference in the acreage of grain sown this year as compared with last. I should say that there is nearly one third more grain sown this season, and it is much better farmed and cultivated than what I saw on my travels last season.

feet high. It is covered temporarily for the present and some of his stock is in it. He has 600 acres under grain this spring and it looks well. His place is under a high state of cultivation as much as so any farmer's in Ontario. His stock consists of 42 head of cattle, 22 pigs and other domestic animals. If we had more such men come to the province with the same push and energy, we would soon see mansions comfortable both for man and beast to attract the gaze of the traveller's eye as he drives over our prairies. That is the kind of settlers we want to come to Manitoba.

Yours, etc.,  
A. MELVIN.

**GROWING RAPIDLY**

Each year sees the population of Manitoba greater and a substantial increase in its exports. During the year 1897 it is estimated that \$935,310 were expended on farm buildings and dwelling houses outside the cities and towns. The number



City Hall, Brandon, Manitoba

I did not see a field drilled in on stubble. It has all been well cultivated and looks well considering the dry spring we have had. No doubt the crops are suffering to some extent on account of this dry spell but they are no ways blighted, and should a kind providence see fit in a short time to send us a bountiful rain and no other untoward circumstance occur there is the prospect of an abundant harvest. I stayed a short time and took dinner with one Jas. Davidson, a gentleman who came from Ontario some nine years ago with a family of four sons and two daughters. He courteously showed me through his place. He said when he came to Manitoba he came to be a bona fide settler and that he had not five dollars to his name when he landed in Manitoba, but he had push, pluck, energy and sand in him. Now he has every comfort any man need desire. As a general rule the houses and buildings of the prairie farmer are not so good as in Ontario owing to building material being more expensive, but he has as good a house and as comfortable a house as the common run of farmers in Ontario. This summer he is building a barn 60x40. The barn is already built with a stone wall eight

of settlers arriving at Winnipeg in 1897 was 10,864, and the number of situations supplied to laborers through the instrumentality of the government agents increased from 757 in 1896 to 1,805 in 1897. There are now 49 cheese factories and 29 creameries in the province, and the value of their products last year was \$291,586. This is an increase over the season of 1896 of \$60,965. It is estimated that \$2,000,000 worth of cattle were sold during the year 1897.

**CANADIAN GOLD REGION.**

William Ogilvie, the noted Yukon explorer, speaking of the extent of the Canadian gold district says that the westerly boundary of this region—the 141st meridian, or International Boundary—is upwards of 300 miles in length; the southern boundary—the 60th parallel of latitude—is about 500 miles long, and the north-east boundary, an irregular line from the 60th parallel to the 141st meridian, in latitude 65 degrees approximately, is upwards of 600 miles long. These three lines bound an area of about 125,000 square miles, over which gold is scattered more or less profusely.

**THE CANADIAN NORTH-WEST.**

**HOMESTEAD REGULATIONS.**

All even-numbered sections of Dominion Lands in Manitoba or the North-west Territories, excepting 8 and 20, which have been homesteaded, reserved to provide wood lots for settlers, or for other purposes, may be homesteaded by any person who is the sole head of a family, or any male over eighteen years of age, to the extent of one quarter-section of 160 acres, more or less.

**ENTRY.**

Entry may be made personally at the local land office for the District in which the land to be taken is situated, or if the homesteader desires he may, on application to the Minister of the Interior, Ottawa, or to Commissioner of Immigration, Winnipeg, receive authority for some one to make the entry for him. A fee of \$10 is charged for an ordinary homestead entry but for lands which have been occupied an additional fee of \$5 or \$10 is chargeable to meet cancellation of inspection and cancellation expenses.

**HOMESTEAD DUTIES.**

Under the present law homestead duties must be performed in the following way, namely, by three years' residence and cultivation, during which time the settler may not be absent, without permission from the Minister of the Interior more than six months in any one year without forfeiting the entry.

**APPLICATION FOR PATENT**

Should be made at the end of the three years, before the local agent or the homestead inspector. Before making application for patent the settler must give six months' notice in writing to the Commissioner of Dominion Lands at Ottawa of his intention to do so. When, for convenience of the settler, application for patent is made before a homestead inspector, a fee of \$5 is chargeable.

**INFORMATION.**

Newly arrived immigrants will receive at the Immigration Office in Winnipeg or at any Dominion Lands Office in Manitoba or the North-west Territories information as to the lands that are open for entry, and from the officers in charge, free of expense, advice and assistance in securing lands to suit them and full information respecting the land, timber, coal and mineral laws, and copies of these regulations, as well as those respecting Dominion Lands in the Railway Belt in British Columbia may be obtained upon application to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, Ottawa, the Commissioner of Immigration, Winnipeg, Manitoba, or to any of the Dominion Lands Agents in Manitoba or the North-west Territories.

JAS. A. SMART,

Deputy Minister of the Interior.

N.B.—In addition to Free Grant Lands, to which the Regulations above stated refer, thousands of acres of most desirable lands are available for lease or purchase from railroad and other corporations and private firms.

**THE CANADIAN NORTH-WEST.**

**CHEAP RAILROAD RATES FOR SETTLERS.**

An intending settler from a country other than Canada wishing to take up Farm Land in Manitoba or the Canadian North-west Territories, in order to

secure the lowest transportation rates, should obtain a Certificate from a Canadian North-west Land Settlement Agent, purchase a ticket to the nearest point on the Canadian Pacific Railway, and on arrival there present his Certificate. In exchange for his Certificate, a ticket to his destination in the Canadian North-west at a very low rate, which may be learned from the Agent before starting.

Should the settler after acquiring land desire to return for his family he will be accorded a similar rate returning.

Information as to special reduced rates on settlers' effects in carloads or less than carloads, will be given on application to the Settlement Agent, or any Agent of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

**SETTLERS' EFFECTS—DUTY FREE.**

Item No. 760 of the Canadian Customs Tariff, making Settlers' effects free of duty, reads as follows:—

Wearing apparel, household furniture, professional books, implements and tools of trade, occupation or employment, which the settler has had in actual use for at least six months before removal to Canada, musical instruments, domestic sewing machines, live stock, carts and other vehicles and agricultural implements in use by the settler for at least one year before his removal to Canada, not to include machinery or articles imported for use in any manufacturing establishment, or for sale, provided that any dutiable article entered as settlers' effects may not be so entered unless brought with the settler on his first arrival, and shall not be sold or otherwise disposed of without payment of duty, until after two years actual use in Canada, provided also that under regulations made by the Minister of Customs, live stock when imported into Manitoba or North-west Territories by Intending Settlers, shall be free, until otherwise ordered by the Governor in Council.

**CATTLE QUARANTINE.**

Neat cattle were formerly detained 90 days at the border in quarantine, but this has been abolished and the consequent delay and expense to the settler will no longer have to be encountered.

**CANADIAN AGENCIES IN THE U. S.**

There are about 150 Agents of the Canadian Government now at work in various parts of the United States, disseminating information with regard to the resources and attractions of Western Canada as a field for settlement. Following are the names and addresses of a few of these agents, who are always most ready and willing to answer enquiries, whether personal or by letter:—

- Bl. V. McInnes, No. 1 Merrill Block Detroit, Michigan.
- D. L. Caven, Bad Axe, Michigan.
- James Grieve, Reed City, Michigan.
- J. S. Crawford, 408 Board of Trade, Kansas City, Missouri.
- Benjamin Davis, 154 East Third Street, St. Paul, Minnesota.
- T. O. Currie, Stevens Point, Wisconsin.
- C. J. Broughton, 1223 Monahanock Building, Chicago, Illinois.
- W. V. Bennett, 802 New York Life Building, Omaha, Nebraska.
- W. H. Rogers, Watertown, South Dakota.
- J. H. M. Parker, 502 Palladio Building, Duluth, Minnesota.
- D. H. Murphy, Stratford, Iowa.
- William Ritchie, Grifton, North Dakota.
- Alfred S. Rolto, Boise City, Idaho.
- N. Bartholomew, 306 Fifth St., Des Moines, Iowa.

**MANITOBA.**

OFFERS EXCEPTIONAL ADVANTAGES TO THE HOME-SEEKER, WHETHER

**FARM LABORER, DAIRYMAN, STOCKMAN OR WHEAT-GROWER.**

THERE NEVER HAS BEEN A MORE FAVORABLE TIME THAN THE PRESENT FOR SETTLERS TO LOCATE.

**Some Eloquent Facts,**

25 years ago the chief products of Manitoba were the furs of wild animals. To-day these products are Wheat, Cattle, Butter, Cheese.

**IN 25 YEARS**

The population increased from 12,000 to 200,000; the land under cultivation from 10,000 acres to 2,000,000 acres, the number of schools from 16 to 982.

**EVEN IN A SINGLE DECADE**

The results are no less remarkable, as may be seen from the following figures:—

**GRAIN PRODUCED.**

	1885.	1895.
Wheat .....	7,429,440 bush,	41,776,038 bush,
Oats .....	6,364,263 bush,	22,555,733 bush,
Barley .....	1,113,481 bush,	5,645,036 bush,
Total .....	14,907,184 bush,	59,975,807 bush,

Increase in ten years, 45,068,623 Bushels

The area of Wheat, Oats and Barley under crop was:—

In 1885.....	566,228 acres,
In 1895.....	1,722,773 acres,

Increase, 1,156,545 acres.

The province has a municipal system which is simple, economical and efficient. Taxation in all parts is therefore reduced to a minimum. Lands can be bought in nearly every district, on easy terms of payment. Prices range from \$2.50 per acre upward. FREE homesteads are still available in some parts of the province.

Full information, maps, etc., may be had on application to

**THOS. GREENWAY,**

Minister of Agriculture and Immigration, WINNIPEG, MAN.

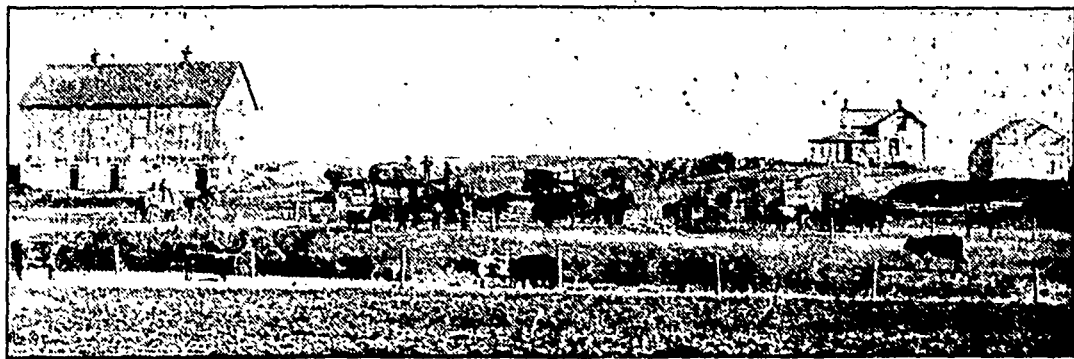
Or to W. D. Scott, Manitoba Im. Agent, 30 York St., Toronto,



## FARMERS' WIVES.

Personal Visits Among them in Manitoba by an American Lady.

Mary Alice Harriman, of Minneapolis, contributes to the February Housekeeper of that city the following article on how farmers' wives like life in Manitoba:



James Davidson's Farm Buildings, referred to on page 7.

Photographers have given us some interesting results in pictures of a group of people as one individual. The composite resulting shows the leading characteristics of the group, while looking like none personally. The idea is to get a perfect type, with all weakness eliminated, and whether of university boys, Vassar girls, or a society of learned scientists, the result is the same. Why should we not do the same in writing of a certain class—farmers' wives for instance?

Instead of using a camera for a composite picture of one hundred wives of the farmers of Manitoba, let us try to blend their varied comments on the country, climate and work, into a composite word picture, and thus give a type of a nearly perfect woman, which shall serve as an answer to the readers of *The Housekeeper*.

The general idea of a farmer's wife is of an over-worked woman, with few of the comforts and none of the luxuries of life. More especially is this true of the accepted notion of the pioneer women who have so bravely gone with their husbands to the new regions opened for settlement within the last twenty years. One unconsciously pities them. They must of necessity, we think, be homesick, lonely, over-worked, have to follow the binders in harvest and water the cattle in winter. All this is so far from the actual facts of the case in the "Prairie Province" in this year of our Lord, 1897, that we wish to picture a few homes and home-keepers in Manitoba who are neither home sick, lonely, over-worked nor unhappy.

Let us sketch in a few of the hundred recently personally interviewed, then we will adjust our pen camera for a composite of the whole. A farm house near a rapidly flowing stream, wide stretches of market gardens, a glimpse of a large city in the distance, seen through trees shading the low roofed house.

"We used to live in Lower California when we first came west," said the rosy cheeked young matron who asked us into her tidy parlor. "But my sakes! I stood it a year, then we moved here. Manitoba's cold, crisp winters are too delightful to ever sigh for a warmer climate. We make more money right here with this market garden than we ever did anywhere else. The children are healthy, and as for me, put me down as a contented, happy woman."

So we did, and drove to another farm, some what more pretentious. Here a brisk lady greeted us. She said that they were early settlers, had no money when they came and were just married. Now they have eleven children and are worth forty thousand dollars—which was not a bad record for twenty-two years of farm life.

The only thing another busy woman had to complain of was the lack of time among the men folks to fix up the house. "For they make so much money from wheat raising that they hate to putter around the house."

"Can't you hire such work done?" was asked, but she said men for odd jobs like putting up shelves, building cisterns, etc., were scarce.

As we drove along the beautiful level road, we could see broad stretches of farm lands lying under the sunny sky, and neat farm houses in every direction.

So much has been written of the sod house and the rude, comfortless homes of the mortgage-ridden Northwestern farmers, that it was a pleasure to see the very opposite in well built houses, barns and sheds, that were better kept up than the average farm house in either the East or South. No tumble down outbuildings here with clapboards or shingles innocent of paint, and gray from endurance of rains and fogs; no seven-by-

help when the babies were small; always had a cheery word when the work seemed hard during harvest and help was scarce; and now we have our reward for years of toil."

It does depend on one's husband, indeed. No one knows that better than the thousands of women patiently striving to help "John" to make a living, clear the farm and have a competence for declining years. No woman can be happy either in palace or on the farm with a fault-finding or shiftless husband.

But to the credit of the men who are making of Manitoba a banner province of Canada, be it said that they are an honor to any state, province or country. Here dwell a thrifty people gathered from Eastern Canada and the States, from Scotland's braes and England's crowded centres, from far off Russia, whence come the persecuted Mennonites of whom there are few better emigrants; from barren Iceland, whose people are inured to every hardship and gladly come to this more favored clime; and the strong and hardy Scandinavian, all united in one purpose—to make their homes comfortable, rear their children, and lay up a competence for declining years.

"I came from England three years ago as a domestic servant, but within a year I had a home of my own, and you can judge for yourself if I have reason for liking this country." This from one who could not have been over twenty-three, and showed with pride her comfortable home and pretty, blue-eyed baby so like the father who came in to see the strangers and offer to "put up the horse, and you stay to supper." But what need to further relate the same story told in different forms? Everywhere the same smile of content and welcome; everywhere the well-kept home. Small wonder that the "composite" resulting from the women on the farms in Manitoba shows a strong, healthy woman, with good complexion and cheerful eyes; a woman bearing many and healthy children, who will rise up and call her blessed as they reach maturity and seek homes of their own; a woman intelligent, bright and contented, who thinks no work too hard when done for "John" and the babies; who believes woman should be the help-mate to man, and lives up to her belief. The Canadian type prevails, though Scottish, English and Norwegian characteristics were not wanting, but rather complemented the other.

This, then, is the picture resulting from personal visits among the farms on the wide reaching prairies, and the composite is certainly "A Contented Woman," who is proud of home and children, who enjoys farm life, and who believes that she has the best husband on earth, and lives in the only country worth living in.

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Where else could one find a more heartfelt response to the enquiry which had been propounded?

"It depends on one's husband if a woman is contented," answered another wife. "When two work together, then prosperity follows. John always talked matters over with me; tried to

## THE KLONDIKE.

Most people are not aware that the Klondike, Bonanza Creek and Eldorado are wholly in Canadian territory, and that the claims on the latter are worth from sixty to several hundred dollars.