





Map of  
THE  
**Canadian Pacific**  
RAILWAY  
AND ITS  
CONNECTIONS



EVERY-DAY=====

===== QUESTIONS =====

===== ANSWERED

IN REGARD TO THE

CANADIAN WEST

AND ITS

OPPORTUNITIES

AND REWARDS

FOR

FARMERS

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ISSUED BY  
THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY  
MONTREAL, 1888



# EVERY-DAY QUESTIONS ANSWERED

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## WHY NOT GO WEST?

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It is no longer a matter for argument that the Canadian West is a good place for the farmer-colonist to go to. That is settled. Manitoba and Assiniboia raised in 1887 ten millions of bushels of wheat and a proportionate quantity of other grains; potatoes are being exported thence to Ontario; and Manitoba took the prizes in competition with all Canada for certain dairy products. In Alberta there are 70,000 head of horned cattle, 30,000 horses, and 25,000 sheep pastured upon leased ranches. Experience has shown that the objections which its detractors have urged against the Canadian West, were not founded on fact, but were either the outcome of ignorance, or prompted by a desire to divert the emigrant to other parts. There is no more advantageous locality for capital to win good returns in agriculture, or for the man without capital to acquire a fortune by industry, than on the Canadian prairies; and this is being realized so well, by thoughtful and energetic men in all parts of the world, that the golden opportunities now open to settlers will be lost to those who delay long in seizing upon them.

The question then before the intending emigrant from Europe, from eastern Canada, or from the United States, is not whether it is a good thing to go to the North-West, but simply in what part of that great wheat-empire it will be best to make his home; what particular line of agricultural industry shall engage him; and how best to prepare for it.

To give information and advice upon these points is the object of the present pamphlet.

### **GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CANADIAN WEST**

Lake Superior may be said to stand as a barrier between eastern and western Canada. Four hundred miles west of Lake Superior the traveller emerges upon the undulating surface of an almost treeless plain, which stretches thence for 900 miles westward to the foot of the Rocky Mountains.

The mountains and the Pacific slope west of them form the province of British Columbia. The great plains-country is apportioned

into five political divisions. The easternmost of these is the province of Manitoba, including the valley of Lakes Manitoba and Winnipeg, and the prairies south of them drained by the Red and Assiniboine rivers, as far as the boundary of the United States. West of Manitoba lie the two provisional districts of Assiniboia and Saskatchewan, the former directly south of the latter; and west of both these, along the foot of the mountains, the district of Alberta.

The higher portions of this plain, which as a whole is triangular in shape, its apex extending up to Peace River, are in the west and north, where the general level along the mountains exceeds 3,000 feet above the sea. Easterly it sinks gradually down to the depression of Lake Winnipeg and the Red River prairies, which are only about 800 feet in altitude.

The valleys of all the rivers and their tributaries, within Manitoba, Assiniboia, Saskatchewan and Alberta, are in the highest degree adapted to civilization, and are rapidly being peopled. They comprise a territory twice as great in extent as all of the useful part of eastern Canada, and nearly half as big as the whole of Europe, yet easily accessible in all its parts. Manitoba is permeated by railroads in all directions; her lakes and rivers are so connected that there is steamship navigation over a large extent of her territory; and her remotest limits to the northward are easily to be reached by boats and canoes.

The whole length of Assiniboia, Alberta and British Columbia is spanned by the Canadian Pacific railway, which forms a transcontinental route across these provinces from eastern Canada to the Pacific coast; and southern Alberta is reached by a branch-railway penetrating to its coal mines and grazing lands. Other branch-railways penetrate the northern part of Assiniboia and the southern part of the Saskatchewan valley. Everywhere waggon-roads are opened across the country; bridges or ferries span streams that are not easily fordable; and there is nowhere any danger from highwaymen or savages, nor likelihood of losing one's way. West of Manitoba the whole country is under the surveillance and protection of a strong body of Government police, and to every part where settlement has established itself, regular mails are sent at frequent intervals; while to the many larger settlements, even those like Prince Albert, at a distance of two or three hundred miles from the railway, telegraph lines are built, and the news of the world is published by a local press.

These great plains, throughout their whole extent, are ready for immediate cultivation. The prairie is covered with natural grasses, furnishing excellent pasturage; it is ready to receive the plough-share without exacting any work of clearing; so that on arriving on the land he has chosen, the colonist can at once put his cattle to pasture, plough and harvest his crop, just as, in another part of Canada, he would do had he bought a farm a long time cultivated. Often, a section contains natural meadows, producing very good hay for wintering the stock, which can besides find their own living during a part of the winter by browsing on the prairie. Indeed, after a twelve months, the colonist who takes a prairie farm is as well, or even better, established than one would be who takes up land covered with forest after

fifteen or twenty years of hard and costly labor at clearing. The rich harvests that the farmer reaps when he has got his prairie land under cultivation, compensate him a hundred fold for the small trouble that he can have in procuring the wood necessary for the construction of his fences or his farm buildings. And lastly, the colonist need not fear seeing himself isolated or stopped by want of roads, for years, as often happens to the courageous settler who goes to pitch his tent in the middle of the forest. Upon the plain, one travels in every direction on wheels as freely as the navigator on the sea with his vessel, and everywhere the draught and working animals find upon the prairie itself the nourishment that elsewhere their owners are compelled to buy or transport.

Is it possible to imagine a country more attractive in all its aspects than these beautiful and rich prairies of the west ?

In respect to climate, the data, both of science and ordinary observation, show that western Canada has a climate, which, though cold in winter, is better than that of Minnesota and Dakota ; and that its worst development is in the valley of Red River, where, nevertheless, exists the oldest and densest population, and the most varied farming. The hue and cry which is raised by rivals and detractors of the Canadian West in regard to what they call its "awful climate" is therefore without any just foundation ; and it is particularly impertinent when directed against Canadians, who will find the worst of western winters no harder to endure than those they are accustomed to in Ontario and Quebec.

Observations, continued accurately through many years, have shown that on the western plains the temperature of the spring is as high, even relatively higher in some localities, than in the more populous and more advanced sections of the old provinces of Canada, with this difference, that the snow goes off earlier, and that consequently the work of cultivation begins much sooner than along the St. Lawrence. At Fort McLeod, Battleford, Edmonton, or Dunvegan, work and seeding commence about the 15th of April, which is nearly a month in advance of a good part of the provinces of Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, where rain and bad weather are at this season far more frequent and of longer duration than on the western plains.

In all the prairie region, but especially in the farther west, the spring, in an agricultural point of view, is one of the finest seasons possible to imagine. The weather is clear, still and dry, and rain is almost unknown. The gradual thawing out of the soil furnishes vegetation all the moisture of which it has need, and gives it a vigor of which it is hardly possible to form an idea, unless one has seen it with his own eyes.

Furthermore, by reason of the greater length of the days, the thermometric degrees being the same, the sum of the heat is much greater in the new West than in our older provinces, and thus practically, in its effect upon vegetation, the temperature of the agricultural season is warmer and higher on the plains of the west than in the finest portions of the eastern provinces, where the days are shorter. Thus, in the Saskatchewan region, and in the greater part of the Athabasca and Peace-river countries, the temperature of the agricultural season is warm enough and high enough, and to spare, to make wheat and all other cereals ripen perfectly. The

temperature of our prairies is even high enough to allow the cultivation of maize—which the climate in England renders impossible there—since the census of 1880 states that as long ago as that year 190 bushels of maize had been harvested at Qu'Appelle, 1,567 bushels at Prince Albert, and 200 at Edmonton. In the valleys of the Red, Assiniboine and Souris rivers it is a regular garden-crop, concerning which the farmers have no anxiety; and lately, Indian corn raised near Winnipeg took the first prize offered by a New York agricultural magazine in competition with the whole continent.

The dryness of the air is the secret of the degree of comfort experienced even when the mercury is very low, for that sensation of penetrating chill, which makes the cold weather of coast regions so unpleasant and unhealthy, is rarely felt. Snow never falls to a great depth, and the rains on the plains have never been seriously impeded by it. As this snow is perfectly dry, a person never has wet feet or soaked clothing by it. There is no thawing after winter sets well in—say the last of November; only steady, bright frost until April. Men travel with teams everywhere, taking their grain to market, hauling fuel, building material and fencing, and doing all their work without hindrance. Stock thrive well out of doors so far as the cold is concerned; and along the base of the Rockies, where the warm, dry Chinook winds from the west absorb the snow rapidly, herds of horses and neat cattle have hitherto been left out all winter to shift for themselves. Calves and lambs are born on the open prairie in January and February, and not only live but grow fat.

All unite in testifying to the healthfulness of the West. Let a man take the ordinary care of himself, which circumstances suggest, and he will grow stronger and live longer in these prairies than he would have done at home, no matter where that was. As for persons with a tendency to consumption, the climate is their salvation; but a person in the last stages of consumption would do well to keep away, in winter at least. Fevers are unheard of on the prairies.

### HOW TO OBTAIN LAND

The whole plains-region has now been accurately surveyed by the Dominion government, and parcelled out into square and uniform lots, distinctly marked, on the following plan: All the land is divided into "townships" six miles square, the eastern and western bounds of which are true meridian lines (called ranges), while the northern and southern sides follow parallels of latitude. Each township contains thirty-six "sections" of 640 acres, or one square mile, each, which are again subdivided into quarter sections of 160 acres. A road-allowance, one chain wide, is provided for on each section running north and south, and on every alternate section east and west, thus making a network of public roads crossing at right angles, those north and south six miles apart, and those east and west twelve miles apart. The diagram on the next page will illustrate this, and will show how the ownership of the land is divided within "the fertile belt," which extends along the transcontinental railway with a breadth of twenty-four miles on each side of the line.

## TOWNSHIP DIAGRAM

640 ACRES		N					
1 MILE SQUARE	31	32	33 C.N.W.	34	35	36	
	C.P.R.	Gov.	or C.P.R.	Gov.	C.P.R.	Gov.	
	30	29	28	27	26	25 C.N.W.	
	Gov.	Schools	Gov.	C.P.R.	H.B.	or C.P.R.	
	19	20	21 C.N.W.	22	23	24	
	C.P.R.	Gov.	or C.P.R.	Gov.	C.P.R.	Gov.	
	18	17	16	15	14	13 C.N.W.	
	Gov.	C.P.R.	Gov.	C.P.R.	Gov.	or C.P.R.	
7	8	9 C.N.W.	10	11	12		
C.P.R.	H.B.	or C.P.R.	Gov.	Schools.	Gov.		
6	5	4	3	2	1 C.N.W.		
Gov.	C.P.R.	Gov.	C.P.R.	Gov.	or C.P.R.		
S							

C. P. R.—Canadian Pacific Railway Company's Lands. GOV.—Government Homestead and Pre-emption Lands. SCHOOLS.—Sections reserved for support of Schools. H. B.—Hudson's Bay Company's Lands. C. N. W.—Canada North-West Land Company's Lands as far west from Winnipeg as Moosejaw only. Sections 1, 9, 13, 21, 25 and 33, from Moosejaw westward, still belong to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company.

The surveyed lands are marked on the ground itself by iron and other kinds of monuments, at the corners of the subdivisions, and so soon as the newcomer makes himself acquainted with these he will instantly understand the position and extent of his own farm on the prairie, or of any other part of the country.

The whole plains-region is furthermore divided by five "meridians," which serve as base-lines for accurate surveying. The First of these is near the true meridian of  $97^{\circ} 30'$ , in the eastern edge of Manitoba; the Second, on the western boundary of Manitoba, long.  $102^{\circ}$ ; the Third crosses Assiniboia near Moosejaw, on long.  $106^{\circ}$ ; the Fourth passes through the Cypress Hills (long.  $110^{\circ}$ ); and the Fifth is the longitude of Calgary,  $114^{\circ}$  west of Greenwich. Between these meridians the ranges are numbered consecutively from east to west; while the tiers of townships are num-

bered continuously from the United States boundary northward as far as they go. To designate one's exact locality, therefore, it is only necessary to say, for example, that he is in range 19, township 10, section 23, west of the second meridian, which is the site of Brandon; or, as the meridian meant is generally well enough known, one need write only the abbreviations R. 19, T. 10, S. 23.

For the disposal of the public lands under this system the government has established agencies in all the principal towns; and the law regulating the free bestowal or sale of these lands is easily understood. It is as follows:

Under the Dominion Lands Regulations all surveyed even-numbered sections, excepting 8 and 26, in Manitoba and the North-West Territories, which have not been homesteaded, reserved to provide wood lots for settlers, or otherwise disposed of or reserved, are to be held exclusively for homesteads and pre-emptions.

**HOMESTEADS.**—Homesteads may be obtained upon payment of an Office Fee of Ten Dollars, subject to the following conditions as to residence and cultivation:

In the "Mile Belt Reserve," that is the even-numbered sections lying within one mile of the Main Line or Branches of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and which are not set apart for town sites or reserves made in connection with town sites, railway stations, mounted police posts, mining and other special purposes, the homesteader shall begin actual residence upon his homestead within six months from the date of entry, and shall reside upon and make the land his home for at least six months out of every twelve months for three years from the date of entry; and shall, within the first year after the date of his homestead entry, break and prepare for crop ten acres of his homestead quarter section; and shall within the second year crop the said ten acres, and break and prepare for crop fifteen acres additional—making twenty-five acres; and within the third year after the date of his homestead entry, he shall crop the said twenty-five acres, and break and prepare for crop fifteen acres additional—so that within three years of the date of his homestead entry, he shall have not less than twenty-five acres cropped, and fifteen acres additional broken and prepared for crop.

Land other than that included in Mile Belt, Town Site Reserves, and Coal and Mineral Districts, may be homesteaded in either of the three following methods:

1. The homesteader shall begin actual residence on his homestead and cultivation of a reasonable portion thereof within six months from date of entry, unless entry shall have been made on or after the 1st day of September, in which case residence need not commence until the first day of June following, and continue to live upon and cultivate the land for at least six months out of every twelve months for three years from date of homestead entry.

2. The homesteader shall begin actual residence, as above, within a radius of two miles of his homestead, and continue to make his home within such radius for at least six months out of every twelve months for the three years next succeeding the date of homestead entry; and shall within the first year from date of entry break and prepare for crop ten acres of his homestead quarter section; and shall within the second year crop the said ten acres, and break and prepare for crop fifteen acres additional—making twenty-five acres; and within the third year after the date of his homestead entry he shall crop the said twenty-five acres, and break and prepare for crop fifteen acres additional, so that within three years of the date of his homestead entry he shall have not less than twenty-five acres cropped, and shall have erected on the land a habitable house in which he shall have lived during the three months next preceding his application for homestead patent.

3. The homesteader shall commence the cultivation of his homestead within six months after the date of entry, or if the entry was obtained after the first day of September in any year, then before the first day of June following; shall within the first year break and prepare for crop not less than five acres of his homestead; shall within the second year crop the said five acres, and break and prepare for crop not less than ten acres in addition, making not less than fifteen acres in all; shall have erected a habitable house on the homestead before the expiration of the second year, and on or before the

commencement of the third year shall have begun to reside in the said house, and shall have continued to reside therein and cultivate his homestead for not less than three years next prior to the date of his application for patent.

In the event of a homesteader desiring to secure his patent within a shorter period than the three or five years, as the case may be, he will be permitted to purchase his homestead, or homestead and pre-emption, as the case may be, on furnishing proof that he has resided on the homestead for at least twelve months subsequent to date of entry, and in case entry was made after the 25th day of May, 1883, has cultivated thirty acres thereof.

**PRE-EMPTIONS.**—Any homesteader may, at the same time as he makes his homestead entry, but not at a later date, should there be available land adjoining the homestead, enter an additional quarter section as a pre-emption, on payment of an office fee of ten dollars.

The pre-emption right entitles a homesteader, who obtains entry for a pre-emption, to purchase the land so pre-empted on becoming entitled to his homestead patent; but should the homesteader fail to fulfil the homestead conditions, he forfeits all claim to his pre-emption.

The price of pre-emptions, not included in Town Site Reserves, is two dollars and fifty cents an acre. Where land is north of the northerly limit of the land grant, along the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and is not within twenty-four miles of any branch of that Railway, or twelve miles of any other railway, pre-emptions may be obtained for two dollars per acre.

Payments for land may be in cash, scrip, or Police or Military Bounty warrants.

**TIMBER.**—Homestead settlers, whose land is destitute of timber, may, upon payment of an office fee of fifty cents, procure from the Crown Timber Agent a permit to cut the following quantities of timber free of dues: 30 cords of wood, 1,800 lineal feet of house logs, 2,000 fence rails, and 400 roof rails.

In cases where there is timbered land in the vicinity, available for the purpose, the homestead settler, whose land is without timber, may purchase a wood lot, not exceeding in area 20 acres, at the price of five dollars per acre cash.

Licenses to cut timber on lands within surveyed townships may be obtained. The lands covered by such licenses are thereby withdrawn from homestead and pre-emption entry, and from sale.

For the disposal of its own lands the Canadian Pacific Railway Company has an agency at Winnipeg, and sub-agencies at each of the principal stations. At these agencies maps will be shown, and honest and accurate information will be given in regard to any desired locality. It almost always happens that the land selected, by a study of the maps and description books at the agency, is taken by the settler after seeing it. All of the business connected with becoming the owner of any of these lands must be transacted at the nearest agency of the district to which the tract in question belongs.

The Canadian Pacific Railway Company offer for sale some of the finest agricultural lands in Manitoba and the North-West. The lands belonging to the Company in each township within the Railway belt, which extends twenty-four miles from each side of the main line, will be disposed of at prices ranging from \$2.50 per acre upwards, and detailed prices can be obtained from L. A. Hamilton, the Land Commissioner at Winnipeg, whose office is at the station.

#### **TERMS OF PAYMENT**

If paid for in full at time of purchase, a deed of conveyance of the land will be given; but the purchaser may pay one-tenth in cash, and the balance in payments spread over nine years, with interest at six per cent. per annum, payable at the end of the year with each instalment. Pay-

ments may be made in land grant bonds, which will be accepted at ten per cent. premium on their par value, with accrued interest. These bonds can be obtained on application at the Bank of Montreal, or at any of its agencies in Canada or the United States. All sales are subject to the following general conditions :

1. All improvements placed upon land purchased to be maintained thereon until final payment has been made.
2. All taxes and assessments lawfully imposed upon the land or improvements to be paid by the purchaser.
3. The Company reserve from sale, under these regulations, all mineral and coal lands ; and lands containing timber in quantities, stone, slate and marble quarries, lands with water-power thereon, and tracts for town sites and railway purposes.
4. Mineral, coal and timber lands and quarries, and lands controlling water-power, will be disposed of on very moderate terms to persons giving satisfactory evidence of their intention and ability to utilize the same.

Liberal rates for settlers and their effects will be granted by the Company over its railway.

The completion of the Manitoba South-Western Colonization Railway to Deloraine, in the neighborhood of Whitewater Lake, has made available for homesteading a large area of excellent land, which has hitherto been undesirable in only one particular—the absence of railway communication. This area comprises the land from the Souris River westward to the Missouri Coteau, and from the International Boundary northward to Moose Mountain. It consists of over 1,000,000 acres of the choicest land in America, well adapted for grain-growing and mixed farming, in a belt 21 miles wide, immediately north of the International Boundary, and from range 13 westward. That portion of this grant lying between range 13 and the western limit of Manitoba is well settled, the homesteads having been long taken up. Purchasers will at once have all the advantages of this early settlement, such as schools, churches and municipal organization. The fertility of the soil has been amply demonstrated by the splendid crops that have been raised from year to year in that district. The country is well watered by lakes and streams, the principal of which are Rock Lake, Pelican Lake, Whitewater Lake, and the Souris river and its tributaries, while never-failing spring creeks take their rise in the Turtle Mountain. Wood is plentiful, and lumber suitable for building purposes is manufactured at Desford, Deloraine, Wakopa and other points, and may be purchased at reasonable prices. At many points, grist mills also are in operation.

The cost of land in proportion to its productive power and the amount of labor required to raise a crop is a question of prime importance to every purchaser. Take an acre of land in Manitoba, worth say \$7, and contrast the cost of raising on that land a crop worth \$10 to \$16 per acre, even in this year of low priced wheat, with the cost of raising an acre of Indian corn, worth from 15 cents a bushel in Kansas to 25 cents in

eastern Iowa. From \$8 to \$10 is all that can be reckoned for the market value of an acre of corn which costs more money to grow on land that costs double the price of good wheat land at Morden or Brandon, the wheat centres of Manitoba. Wheat itself they could hardly raise with profit at one-half more than our price, and theirs is inferior in quality and price. Our cattle raised on land that costs the grazier next to nothing, brings as much as theirs raised on land that costs \$5 to \$15 per acre.

Northern Dakota is perhaps the only country in competition with Manitoba whose claims are at all formidable. The climate, soil and general conditions are very similar; but it is a fact that for years past wheat has brought from 5 to 15 cents a bushel more at Gretna and Emerson, on the Canadian side of the line, than it brought on the south side in the elevators of Minnesota and Dakota. The *Northwestern Miller* of Minneapolis says (February 4th, 1887), that "prices on the Canadian side have been all winter better than on the American, and but for the duty much Dakota wheat would have been marketed in Manitoba."

In addition to this admitted disadvantage of the lower price of wheat, their main product, there is another perhaps still more serious, which Canadians especially ought to make a note of. The amount of *local taxation* in *Pembina County, Dakota*, which lies close alongside our southern border, is *more than five times as heavy as that of the County of Manchester, on our side of the boundary.*

### DAILY QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Land Agents and persons interested in promoting the colonization of the Canadian West, find themselves called upon to answer certain questions in the case of almost every enquirer, and the report of a conversation with a man in anyone of the eastern provinces, "who has some notion of going west," would almost always read thus:

**Question.**—Is there any Government land along, or near, the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway?

**Answer.**—Yes, plenty of it.

**Ques.**—How much land can I secure under the land laws?

**Ans.**—Three hundred and twenty acres. As a homestead, 160 acres; by pre-emption, 160 acres.

**Ques.**—How shall I obtain a homestead?

**Ans.**—Read page 8 of this pamphlet.

**Ques.**—What part of the West would you recommend?

**Ans.**—It depends more or less on a man's inclination and taste in farming. Some men prefer to raise wheat exclusively, while others like stock-farming. The majority, however, prefer mixed farming, as being more pleasant and profitable.

**Ques.**—Is not wheat the main crop in Manitoba?

**Ans.**—Yes, but it is not by any means the only one.

**Ques.**—What other crops are raised there?

**Ans.**—Oats, rye, barley, peas, flax, hops, and all kinds of root-crops and vegetables.

**Ques.**—What is the average yield of wheat in that region?

Ans.—Here is a table compiled by the Agricultural Department of Manitoba, which gives statistics of the estimated area and yield of the leading crops for the present year, the reported average area and yield for the four years 1883-6, and the average yield per acre for each of the two periods. The average yields per acre given for the periods 1883-6, in wheat, oats and barley, are from the returns made by threshers: in the other crops during the two periods, the yields are made up from the returns of the government's regular crop correspondents.

CROPS.	1887.			1883-6.		
	Total Area.	Total Yield	Yield per Acre.	Area.	Average Yield	Aver. Yield per Acre.
	Acres.	Bushels.	Bush.	Acres.	Bushels.	Bush.
Wheat.....	432,134	12,351,724	27.7	316,903	6,141,580	19.3
Oats.....	155,176	7,265,237	46.2	155,851	5,083,859	32.6
Barley.....	56,110	1,925,231	36.3	52,707	1,278,144	24.2
Peas.....	872	16,680	20.5	2,959	51,101	17.2
Flax.....	8,539	163,572	15.3	11,534	157,554	13.6
Potatoes.....	10,791	2,640,066	238	11,603	2,250,982	194
		Tons.	Tons.		Tons.	Tons.
Hay.....		265,396	1.67		282,204	1.77

Ques.—Is there any timber in the country?

Ans.—Yes, in some parts, plenty of it.

Ques.—What is used for fuel where wood cannot be obtained?

Ans.—Coal, as a rule. This can be bought for from \$5 to \$7 a ton at almost any of the railway stations, and in many regions can be procured at local mines. A few years ago the scarcity of wood for fuel was a great drawback to colonizing the western plains, but recent and multiplied surveys pursued in every direction along the Rocky Mountains and far beyond Peace River, establish the fact that coal is found in inexhaustible quantities in the lands lying east of the mountains, and that in this same region, and in nearly all parts of the plains, over areas more or less restricted, there is an abundance of good wood along the rivers for building purposes, without counting the poplar, which is nearly everywhere found in sufficient quantity for fuel and the construction of fences. As to coal Dr. G. M. Dawson has established the fact that in the regions of Belly and Bow rivers alone, taking only the indications of the most easy and least costly survey, there are nearly *eight hundred million tons of good coal!* The population of the plains will have to become very numerous to succeed in burning all that. And yet, there are indications apparently as rich in both the Saskatchewan and Athabasca regions.

Ques.—But is not the scarcity of timber very inconvenient to one accustomed to a wooded country?

Ans.—It might be so at first; but any inconvenience is far overbalanced by the fact that you have no laborious clearing of your farm before you can use it, or grubbing up of acres upon acres before you can plow. On the treeless prairies you can plow a furrow the whole length of

your half section, the next morning after you get there, if you like. It would be childish to complain of scarcity of timber in the face of a great compensation like that.

**Ques.**—Can good root crops and vegetables be grown?

**Ans.**—Yes. There never grew better or larger potatoes, beets, turnips, carrots, cabbages, and especially pumpkins and squashes, than are raised in Manitoba soil. Potatoes weigh from three to four pounds, beets from ten to twenty pounds, squashes have reached 190 pounds, and all other roots and vegetables are in proportion.

**Ques.**—Can timothy hay, red-top and clover be grown successfully?

**Ans.**—Yes, all kinds of tame grasses are raised in the older districts.

**Ques.**—Then you think it is a good stock country as well as a grain country?

**Ans.**—Yes, even in its natural state, since the wonderful growth of native grasses affords the richest pasturage.

**Ques.**—How is the climate?

**Ans.**—Read what has been said on p. 5. With ordinarily comfortable house arrangements a man is as well off, winter and summer, in the West as any where else in Canada. It is a healthy and bracing climate.

**Ques.**—What prices must be paid for what we have to buy?

**Ans.**—The following table gives the ruling prices at present:

Farm waggon.....	\$60.00 to \$70.00	Coffee, Costa Rica.....	25c
Gang plow.....	40.00	Teas, Young Hyson.....	50c
Walking plow.....	14.00 to 20.00	do common.....	40c
Grain drill.....	50.00 to 60.00	Sugar, refined.....	7c
Seeder and cultivator.....	30.00 to 40.00	do brown.....	6c
Mower.....	60.00 to 70.00	Eggs, per dozen.....	18 to 20c
Harvester.....	100.00 to 125.00	Cheese.....	12 to 15c
Fanning mill.....	18.00	Coal oil, per gallon.....	15c
Feed mill (chopper).....	5.00 to 10.00	Flour, superfine, per bbl. of 196 lbs.	\$6.50 to \$7.00
Spring waggon.....	100.00 to 125.00	Corn meal, per 100 lbs.....	1.10
Good farming horses.....	100.00 to 125.00	Buckwheat, per 100 lbs.....	5.00
Working oxen, per yoke.....	75.00	Oatmeal, ".....	3.00
Good average milch cow.....	25.00 to 35.00	Bran, per ton.....	8.00
Heifer, 3 years old.....	18.00 to 20.00	Middlings, per ton.....	10.00
do 1 year old.....	12.00	Family blankets, pair.....	3.00 to 6.00
Sheep, per head.....	2.50 to 3.00	Wool, common graded, per lb.....	30 to 35c
Pigs, 3 months old.....	1.50	Lumber, common, M. ft.....	14.00 to 18.00
Chickens, per dozen.....	2.50	Axes.....	1.00
Beef, on the hoof.....	3 to 4c	Nails, per lb.....	4½ to 5c
Butchered beef.....	8 to 12c	Able-bodied farm hand, per day.....	1.25 to 1.50
Pork, per lb.....	8 to 9c	First plowing or breaking, per acre.....	2.50
Butter, ordinary.....	20 to 25c		
Butter, cooking.....	15c		
Coffee, O. G. Java, per lb.....	25c		

**Ques.**—What amount of money is necessary to make a start?

**Ans.**—Well, the more the better, as "money makes money;" yet push, energy and effectual labor will do more towards making a home than even the mighty dollar.

Many young men, who entered Manitoba three or four years ago, with hardly enough money to pay for one night's lodging, now are comparatively rich and independent—counting their acres by the hundreds. To those who are renting farms in New England and Canada, where they barely make a living, this is a glorious opportunity. Such a man always possesses several hundred dollars' worth of stock and implements. If these were sold, one-half would be enough to settle the farmer on a farm of his own in the West, leaving him the rest to work upon. Thus, on his own farm he would start with half of all that he owned on another man's farm in the East. On the small rented farm, the children are obliged to hire out to others and work hard for their living, while on the new farm in Manitoba there is plenty of room for them to work at home. Young men that go by the hundred to our crowded eastern cities should right about and improve the opportunity now within their reach of becoming freeholders in a *Land of Plenty*. North-West farmers have good and ready markets for everything they can raise.

**Ques.**—How about schools and churches?

**Ans.**—The church and school-house are among the first institutions of every new settlement, and the religious and educational facilities of the country are surprisingly advanced and adequate. One section (or 640 acres) of land in every sixteen is set apart by the Government for the exclusive benefit of the free schools. Thus, the cause of public instruction is endowed with a revenue, and no intending settler need fear that his children cannot attend school.

### TESTIMONY

William Fawkes, an experienced and intelligent farm laborer, from the Midlands of England, writes in *Northwest Farmer*, for February, 1887, as follows:

“I think it about time the sober truth were told about the country; it is good enough to stand on its merits, being neither the El Dorado, looked for by some, nor the Arctic region imagined by others, but a good enough country for any willing worker, and healthy too, as I have proved by five years' residence. In September, 1881, I left England not for her good, but my own. I came to this country to make a home on my own land; and as many like myself are on the lookout for information, it may be of service to them if I state my experience. I have a wife and four children, and having no trade I worked at anything I could get, at whatever wages were going, taking care to buy for cash in the best market and also to spend a little less than I earned. In September, '85, I located a half section near Oak Lake, as a 'military homestead,' and in May last I took a small outfit, built a shanty, and started to plow on my own farm. In seven weeks I had 42 acres broken, besides helping a neighbor at a plowing bee, and doing the statute labor, losing about one day on account of the heat (over 100° in the shade). In seven weeks more I had it backset, using an iron spring plow, the drought rendering the breaker useless for that purpose. I may here remark that very few people backset, as they waited for rain; but competent judges pronounced my work well done. I then harrowed it three times. I also plowed about 26 acres for a neighbor, with his four oxen and gang plow, in return for his putting up hay for me as per agreement, thus making a total plowing of about 110 acres, and a harrowing of about 126 acres between the Queen's birthday and the first week in October. I intend fencing about 40 acres for pasture and breaking 50 more, making 90 in all. This will be worked on the three course system, that is, two crops and a fallow, viz.: first, wheat; second, barley, and the coarser grains; third, fallow, roots and vegetables. When I see a better I will adopt it at once.”

Here is another sketch (*Northwest Farmer*, April, 1886) from life of a live Manitoba Irishman, as seen on his farm near Lake Manitoba :

"Mr. Shannon came here about fifteen years ago with about three scrubby cows, has done nothing since but raise cattle, not even growing his own flour. As one of the oldest cattle raisers in the province, his experience is, therefore, specially noteworthy, showing what, with a moderate amount of attention, may be made with the commonest kind of cows. By using as good bulls as his at first very limited means would allow, he is now possessed of a herd of 150, of which the younger females are as nice a lot as could be desired for any ordinary purpose. Hardly any of them are of the bulkiest sort of grades, but every generation—and there are about half a dozen here—shows a marked advance on its predecessor. For tidy cows, whose offspring would be sure to do well either as dairy cows or beef steers, nothing better could be wished, and the owner, who ought to be the best judge, has no wish to sell any of his heifers. Of beef steers, he last year sold \$1,700 worth fat off the grass. He has only one hired man, who helps him to make hay in the season, hauls wood and does chores in the winter, leaving about the whole work of hauling in hay from the swamp a mile off, and attending on the cattle to the boss himself. The buildings are of the most rough and ready pattern, and some animals are never inside any buildings at all, lying out all winter in the bush, principally oak and maple, which surrounds the place. The cows suckle their calves and have regular shelter inside, when necessary, but the amount of labor bestowed on the whole herd is necessarily very small. There are some very fine colts enclosed in a yard whose mothers, of native origin, 'rustle' in the bush all winter, only those required for work being kept at home. Altogether, Mr. Shannon is a shining example of the success of rough and ready stock-farming if followed out with steadiness of purpose."

In the *Edinburgh Scotsman*, April, 1886, we find a picture of a colony of nine Berwickshire men in the Pipestone Valley—just the sort of men calculated to succeed :

"It was about the coldest day I have ever been out in Manitoba, when I got off the train at Virden on the chance of finding some one from the Pipestone Valley who would give me a ride over. There was a keen north wind. Yet, in the face of this wind, two sons of George Forks, from Houndslow, in the Lammermoores, had come into the elevator with their loads of wheat ; and next morning, with thirty-five degrees below when we started, it was calm and bright, and moderately pleasant. There is not a tree from Virden till the Pipestone Creek, twenty miles south, is reached, and the rolling snow-covered prairie is only relieved from dull monotony by the homesteads of the settlers dotted all over it. I spent three days on the Creek, where it winds through a broad, flat, alluvial soil of considerable fertility. As high as 38 bushels of red fye spring wheat have been taken from it, and its fertility will last much longer than that of the rolling country to the north.

"Forks, his three sons and a son-in-law, hold somewhere about 1,000 acres in all, part free grant, part to be paid for. At home they were small farmers. Seeing little chance of bettering themselves at home, the two eldest sons, strong hardy fellows, came out four years ago ; the rest came the following year, and having a little money to start with, and sticking well together, they have had a pretty fair chance. They will this year be able to sell 4,000 bushels of wheat, for which most of their land is especially adapted, being as flat as a table, with not a stone on it, and perfectly dry. They have one team of mares, one of ponies and two of oxen, a good bull and some cattle, pigs and poultry. The two eldest sons, having acquired a title to their first homesteads, have gone nine miles lower down the valley, and taken up as 'second homesteads' some good hay and timber land, on which by-and-bye to start cattle-raising, which is now looked upon as a better thing than wheat growing.

"William and James Lothian, nephews of George Forks, had located a short way further east. Both these young men have since brought wives from Scotland, and are engaged in mixed farming. William sold 500 bushels of very nice wheat this winter, and last year his seven cows dropped him seven heifer calves.

"Peter Miliken, a bright little man from Ayton, is a few miles farther up the stream than the others. He had only his oxen, waggon, and provisions for a few months, and after breaking his land had to go back to Brandon and work for his seed wheat. He has a good log cabin, a granary, and a big backwoods stable of sods,

rooted with rough poles and covered with last season's straw. Inside are a team of fine mares and about eight cattle ; while under the flanks of this erection are housed some fine light Brahma fowls, and in another cave under the straw some good pigs. He had this year over 1,300 bushels of wheat, and from seven acres of very rank oats over 500 bushels yield. On such a soil as his it is possible to raise wheat at from 35 to 40 cents a bushel without loss. His plucky Northumbrian wife was the first white woman in the settlement, and they have now three fine children."

A book was published two or three years ago, entitled "*What Women Say of the North-West*," in which there were hundreds of answers to the request : " Kindly give any advice that may be of service to incoming mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, and any practical information or any household recipe that may be of service to them."

A few of the replies, all of which were very full and pertinent, are well worth repeating here :

Mrs. S. Ballantyne, of Emerson, Southern Manitoba.—" Men with means or men without means who are paying rents in the old country will certainly better their condition by coming here. If poor, those of the family old enough to work will find employment, and thus aid the family in getting a start, and our Canadians are very charitable in the way of helping decent poor men to erect buildings without charge, and they also aid such in many other ways. I was born in Scotland, lived there till I was 21 years of age, and emigrated to the Province of Quebec, lived there over two years, came to Ontario, lived on a farm 18 years, in the city 14 years, and in Manitoba over 8 years, and should know of what I speak, and I must say without fear of contradiction, or an attempt at such, by any person who has lived in Manitoba, that for soil, climate, weather and delightful seasons, it stands unrivalled by any country yet known. Our present fall weather cannot be equalled in any country on the globe.

Mrs. R. P. Thompson, of Miami P. O., Man.—" They will all want to make up their minds to meet with some disadvantages and difficulties, and to make up their minds to overcome them, and accommodate themselves to the new home. All should come with means enough to buy one or two cows and a few hens, which will soon bring in quite a portion of the living ; then in a year or two, they, by careful management, will have some poultry, eggs, butter, etc., to sell, and there is always a ready sale for such produce at fair prices. I sold a lot of spring chickens at the door a few days ago for 40 cents (1s. 8d.) per pair, and geese for 3 dollars (12s.) per pair. If I can be of any service in giving any information of any kind to intending immigrants, I gladly offer to do so, as I am well aware of the overcrowded state of the old country, especially in the cities. As to any one coming to this part (Miami), I will undertake to help them to find a suitable home. There are places here to rent on easy terms, with buildings, where families could move right in. Then there is a lot of good land to be sold at five dollars (£1) per acre, and some for less. I could find homes for eight or ten good girls on farms at from five to eight dollars (£1 to £1. 12s.) per month.

Mrs. C. C. Clitten, of Bird's Hill.—" To women settling in the country would suggest that they pay some attention to gardening, and bring seeds with them ; all the small fruits grow in great perfection here. Make a point of setting out raspberries, currants, and strawberries, as soon as possible ; these all grow wild here, and of very fine flavor, and they also add so much to the comfort of the home. Native hops and grapes are here, and I am told that the cultivated cherry and fine plum do well here planted in bluffs, only enough cleared for their growth, the native trees protecting them till they get their growth, then clear away from them."

Mrs. M. G. Anderson, of Grenfell, Assa., N.W.T.—" My health has improved, and I consider the climate very bracing and exceptionally healthy. 2. The climate is decidedly healthy for children. My experience recommends that intending immigrants, both young and old, should be well supplied with flannel underclothing for winter and summer use."



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