

# FARMING IN THE WEST

By MISS EMMA KENNEDY.

Its Pleasures  
Its Environments  
Its Tribulations

(To the Editor of The Post)

Dear Mr. Editor,—In reply to a request that I send you paper a short account of my experiences as a Saskatchewan teacher, and my impressions of the life in this country, I am sending you the following sketch. It is a country "school-marm's" opinion on agriculture in this country will scarcely form as profitable reading matter as would those of an experienced farmer. However, I will at least write of what I have seen and heard on this subject, and can possibly give a better idea of the life of a teacher in a newly settled district of the west.

Farming in this province is quite different from that in Ontario, it seems to me. Here, it is far more of a risk. There is a greater difference in the volume of the crops from year to year. There are different methods, different markets, and a different life for the people. It is as much of a risk out here as is any mercantile concern, and only those who have a capacity for business can succeed. During the summer the farmer in this country is about as anxious and worried as any city stock broker who has invested his last dollar, and watches the stock market in suspense during some crisis, for though his broad acres of wheat may be ripening in the sun today, tomorrow may bring a hail storm which will plough it into the ground, worse than useless, or tonight there may be a heavy frost which will blight it so that it can only be used as feed for stock. In the last three years several men in this district have lost all their property, and others have had to mortgage even their horses. On the other hand, just as some business men may have a prosperous year and retire with a fortune, so a few of those who come out here happen to invest in first class land and are fortunate. It is always these fortunate ones that you hear of in Ontario.

The land and work are very different here, too. In the two counties of Holey and South Qu' Appelle, parts of which I have seen, the soil is good but more stony than it is around Lindsay. Sloughs, or duck ponds, as we in Ontario would call them, are far too plentiful, but the black coarse grass which grows in them is useful for hay as well as the light, prairie wool which covers the unbroken land. The prairie is broken by a hand, gang or sub-plow and from four to six horses are used, according as the land is heavy or light. Then it is disked in lengthwise and twice across, and then plowed and packed one way. This is usually all done before the first sets in, and the ground is then ready for sowing in the spring. For the next season, the stubble is burned off, both because it is very heavy and because the ground may lose its moisture if it is ploughed under. Then a harrowed, drilled and harrowed again. Experiment has proved that it is best to take off only two crops before summer following, so about one-third of the land is always idle. Between seed time and harvest the summer fallow is ploughed, harrowed and cultivated. The best yield usually comes from the summer fallow.

I wonder if the people from the east who are coming out here to homestead ever realize what is before them? I have heard several tell of their experiences, and none have been very cheerful accounts. Let me give you one man's story. He came out here five years ago on a harvesters' excursion, secured his homestead, built a sod stable and broke twenty acres. The next April he brought out his wife and nine children, and they settled in the small town nearest the homestead during a heavy snow storm which delayed them there for two weeks. Then they started out on their forty mile drive over the prairie, with twelve head of cattle and two wagons loaded with furniture, provisions and lumber. It would take too long a story to tell of their experiences on that trip, how their wagons upset in the creek which they had to ford, or how they were stuck in the snow drifts, how the cattle became half starved and scarcely able to walk, and how they themselves wished they were back in civilization again. But their two days' journey came to an end at last, and they found themselves on their homestead, two miles from their nearest neighbor, and with only a sod stable to move into. The man and his son returned to town for lumber and within a week they had a small low shack ready to move into. There was no floor, and the walls and roof were covered only by tar paper, and when heavy rains came, their one room was anything but dry. They sowed oats and planted potatoes, and that was all the returns they had for one year. It took the remainder of the summer to build a large sod stable, improve their shack and add a sod kitchen to it, and fifty acres more and gather wood and hay for the winter. These

people have since been able to buy half a section of land and build a small house. At first they often wished they had never left Ontario, but now they say nothing could induce them to go back.

This country offers a great opportunity to young men who are ambitious and willing to work hard. But when they come out here they must expect to endure a few hardships and many privations. It is even worse and more lonely to keep "batch" here than in the east, where the young farmer at least has close neighbors and a special lady friend or two. But when he comes out here he must make up his mind to be one of twenty bachelors to every young girl. I was at a dance lately where there were fifty men and nine girls! Then, the bachelor in this country is usually too poor to marry for some time, or else he gets the craze for more land, more land, until his youth is past and he does not have even one fortieth of a chance to enlarge his shack for one of the few girls. Matrimonial agencies often relieve the situation, so I hear. An old timer who is driving one around the country for the first time, will point to one little sod house, saying, "That man never got married, and he's getting pretty gray—you should see the inside of his shack," or "See that house? Well, Billy McGee, the man that lives here, got his wife from one of them matrimonial agencies, ye know. She's a little off, perhaps, but a mighty fine woman for him; she can milk cows, and do chores, and ride a binder as fine as any as any man."

One who is thinking of homesteading should come out first on a harvesters' excursion to look around. It is advisable to see the land before making entry for it. A homestead consists of 160 acres, which is obtained from the government almost free of charge. The homesteader first files his application at the department, then makes entry, paying \$10. Then he is given six months to take up residence on the land and sixty days' notice after that if any cancellation is attempted. If he is not on the land at the end of that time anyone else may apply for it. The duties extend over three years before he can obtain his patent. He must live on his land six months of each of the three years, and build a habitable home not smaller than 12x12x8, unless he already owns land in the vicinity or lives with his parents, brother or sister, and he must break at least ten acres a year. If a man does not like his land he can abandon it and take up another homestead, but he forfeits all the improvements he has made, and the next man taking up the land must pay the department for these. If he forfeits his homestead on account of unfulfilled duties, he cannot take up another in any province but British Columbia. Under present conditions in Saskatchewan, one who has already homesteaded can take up a pre-emption of 160 acres at the price of \$3 an acre. One who has not homesteaded can take up half a section, 160 acres, as a homestead, and 160 more at \$3 an acre, and he need pay only \$10 down and the balance within four years.

It is better to go into an entirely new district to homestead in order to get a first class quarter. A man can enter an entirely new country, pick out the choicest land and "squat" on it. Then when that part is thrown open for settlement he has the first claim to that 160 acres. If a homesteader comes out here without any capital, he is going to have a hard time to make ends meet for several years, unless he is unusually fortunate. Living expenses are about as high here as in Toronto. The cheapest grade of lumber sells at \$35 per M., horses cost as high as \$500 and scarcely ever less than \$350 a team, and machinery and implements are a high price. Even groceries and dry goods are expensive, and fuel is a scarce article, cordwood costing \$4 a cord and coal from \$8 to \$16 a ton. Wages are very high, farm hands receiving from \$30 to \$40 a month and their board, and women from \$18 to \$20 a month for housework.

A homesteader seldom has any crop the first year, except perhaps a few hundred bushels of oats. 2000 bushels of wheat and 1200 bushels of oats make a fair average of returns from 150 acres after two years of cultivation. Wheat brings usually 70c. per bushel for grade 1, 67c for grade 2, and oats, 35c per bushel. The ordinary expenses incurred in homesteading are the building of a shack and stable, the buying of horses and implements, or paying for having the land broken by steam at the rate of \$8 per acre, and threshing the crop at 5c and 4c per bushel for wheat and oats respectively. This part of the country is not flat, but more hilly than the country around Lindsay. To the north and west stretches a long line of unbroken, uncultivated hills, and to the

## LIVE BITS OF NEWS

—Big hats are under the ban in Omaha Episcopal churches.  
—The total assessment of Niagara Falls is five million dollars.  
—Dean Mahaney, of St. Mary's Cathedral is ill with pneumonia.  
—Five Hamilton hotelmen were fined for selling liquor last Sunday.  
—The smelter at Chippewa is working night and day on Cobalt ores.  
—Earl Grey has taken Lord Strathcona's house in Montreal for a month.  
—Immigration to Canada from April to October decreased 48 per cent.  
—In October 241 work people in Canada were injured and of these 79 died.  
—Ald. Bailey will be the Conservative candidate for mayor of Hamilton.  
—Pontiac county Conservatives will protest the election of G. F. Hodgins M. P.  
—Hearst financed the campaign of the Independence party at a cost of \$42,000.  
—The Shah of Persia has withdrawn his anti-constitutional proclamation.  
—Fifty three immigrants are to be deported from the U. S. to Great Britain.  
—Mrs. Deans, one of the oldest residents of Niagara Falls, is dead, aged 86.  
—Four parties are mapping alternative routes for the Hudson's Bay railway.  
—The 24th Regiment of Chatham may be disbanded as a result of its Quebec trip.  
—Dr. Leeson, of Beresford, Man., was killed by falling under a load of timber.  
—B. C. temperance workers met in Vancouver to organize a local option campaign.  
—Hamilton brickmakers formed the Hamilton Builders Supply Co. to keep up prices.  
—A bullet whizzed by the head of O. B. Doiland as he sat in his office at London.  
—The C. P. R. is preparing to erect a mammoth coal handling plant at Fort William.  
—Melville Haidley of Peterboro shot himself in the leg while handling a revolver.  
—San Francisco has received aerograms across 4,700 miles of ocean from Japan.  
—Local option is said to be the next campaign of Governor Hughes of New York.  
—W. Brown Marquis, a native of Toronto, is dead at Niagara Falls, N. Y., aged 44.  
—An investigation of the Postypool wreck has been ordered by the Railway Commission.  
—C. Anderson, a 64 year old, of Colquhar, fell in his home and died of his injuries.  
—Hon. P. H. Roy, president of the defunct Banque St. Jean, will be tried at Montreal.  
—Mrs. Farmer Bennett, mother of Mrs. Robert Barr, died in Raleigh township on Friday.  
—The house of Charles Thomaran, of Kingston was wrecked by the explosion of a coal stove.  
—Sir Algernon Borthwick, first baron Gienack, and proprietor of the London Post, is dead.  
—Marquis Pallacini, the Austrian ambassador has been withdrawn from Constantinople.  
—A statue of General Phillip Henry Sheridan was unveiled in Washington on Wednesday.  
—Alberta is to build her own railways and Premier Rutherford is to preside over the new Department.  
—Rev. T. W. Savary, of Winnipeg, may be appointed rector of St. James' Anglican church, Kingston.  
—John Higginson, registrar of Prescott and Russell for many years, is dead at L'Orignal, aged 76.  
—The Eye-Opener was issued again at Calgary on Saturday, but was refused admission to the mails.  
—The immigration of Japanese into Canada from April 1 to the end of October, 1907, totalled 6,648.  
—A stone breakwater at Cox's Deal to cost \$25,000, is proposed by the Queen Victoria Park Commission.  
—C. N. R. engineers are to be provided with better stopping places, where they must remain over night.  
—Residents of Wentworth street and Sherman avenue object to having car lines laid on those thoroughfares.  
—Gananoque town council has passed a resolution thanking Hon. Dr. Reaume for his activity in fish protection.  
—Twelve-year-old Bernadotte Belletau was killed by being caught in a belt in a box factory at Anicene Lorette, Que.  
—Some men hit on others while trying to stand up for themselves.  
—Keep an eye on your friends; you know what to expect of your enemies.

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# This Speaks of Xmas

The pleasure of giving lies chiefly in the usefulness and merit of the gift selected. You will find in our list of exclusive lines, gifts of "STERLING WORTH" that should appeal to all lovers of the unusual high-class goods.

### Genuine Ebony Brushes

Whether for a lady or gentleman any brush article is appreciated. We have the product of the best makes and we offer an extensive assortment to select from. It consists of

**HAIR BRUSHES, CLOTH BRUSHES, HAT BRUSHES, BONNET BRUSHES, MILITARY BRUSHES. \$1.00 to \$6.**

We also have a large stock of cheaper Brushes other than ebony, the better grades being of same quality as genuine ebony.

**50c to \$1.75**

### Leather Display Sets

Without question our line of these goods is the most complete in town. We carry such a large variety that it is easy to select and at prices that make them desirable. We have them in Parisian Ivory, genuine Ebony, containing

**BRUSH, COMB AND MIRROR, Etc., BRUSH AND COMB, MILITARY BRUSHES, CL'ITH and HAT BRUSHES \$4.00 to \$25.00**

We also have cheaper sets with best quality of goods but not ebony. These can be had in price ranging

**From \$2.50 to \$5.00**

### Mirrors

A superb assortment of GENUINE EBONY MIRRORS in different sizes and shapes.

**\$1.50 to \$4.00**

Also other kinds perfectly true bevel edge plate glass, colored and black.

**50c to \$1.75**

### Fancy Back Combs

We wish to maintain our reputation of having the SWELLEST line of Ladies' Back Combs in town. They are Rhinestone settings in silver and nothing more suitable could be selected for a lady, who can appreciate the good things. Price ranges

**\$1.50 to \$9.00**

Keep this list for reference as we have other things equally interesting to tell you about next week. **SELECT EARLY** and it will be kept for you at

# Dunoon's Drug Store

### Collegiate Literary Society

Friday the regular meeting of the collegiate literary society took the form of a mock trial, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all present. The stage was arranged as a court of justice, the judge sitting on a small raised platform in the centre. The accused, Mr. R. Hardy, was charged with the murder of Mr. J. O'Neill. The names used throughout were fictitious and the evidence was very amusing. Towards the close of the proceedings the supposed murdered man appeared on the scene, but nevertheless the jury brought in a verdict of guilty. The defendant's attorney raised an objection whereupon the prosecuting attorney interfered. The judge, Mr. H. McLaughlin, silenced the attorneys and dismissed the case.

### Obituary

#### DANIEL HALLINAN

The Canadian Freeman, of Kingston, makes the following reference to the late Daniel Hallinan. "Mr. Daniel Hallinan, an old and respected Kingstonian, died a few days ago at Lindsay after a long illness from the result of a fall. He was one of the old guard of St. Patrick's Society of this city, and was a brewer by trade. The deceased was a brother of Miss Mary Ann and Hannah Hallinan, Wellington-st. of this city, who have the sympathy of a large number of friends in the loss they have sustained in the death of a kind and affectionate brother, and was also well known and highly esteemed and respected by all, in Lindsay and his native home in Kingston where Mr. Hallinan had made many warm friends by his upright and manly character all through his good and useful life."

### Nettleton is Free

Percy Nettleton, the Detroit youth who has been serving a three months term in the county jail for his connection with the Fenelon Falls stabbing affray last September, was liberated last Monday. He took the G. T. R. flyer for his home.

### Organizing a Dramatic Club

Mr. Irving Beers, who is organizing a local dramatic club for the purpose of presenting "All the Comforts of a Home" in the Academy of Music at an early date in aid of the hockey club, his meeting with great success. The cast of characters will be announced tomorrow night, and it is expected that rehearsals will commence on Monday evening.

### Wedding Bells

WENSLEY — FETERLY: A quiet wedding took place on Wednesday at the Cambridge-st. Methodist parsonage, when Rev. J. P. Wilson, B. A., united in the holy bonds of matrimony Mr. William Wensley, of Dysart township, Haliburton, and Miss Edith Feterly, of the same place. The groom was attended by Mr. Fred Barrett and the bride by her sister, Miss Pearl Feterly.

### Perfection

Who digs the yard for Angeline? Who fixes the front door? Who often runs across the street? Unto the grocery store? Who hauls the coal up to the range? Who shakes the furnace down? Who? Angeline herself, of course. The finest girl in town.

### Business Men More Cheerful

Mr. Alex. Horn, who has returned from a business trip to the west, says business men in Winnipeg are more cheerful than a year ago. Retail and wholesale stocks have been well reduced and orders are placed with the old time assurance. Building operations, which were at a standstill, are going forward again.

### Port Hope Man Caught in a Belt

Roy Trenbeth, while at work at the Nicholson File Works, on Friday met with a very painful accident. He was endeavoring to throw off one of the belts when in some manner his leg was caught between the belt and the pulley. Before he could be released his leg was badly smashed, causing a compound fracture below the knee, and one of the bones broke through the flesh. Dr. McKinley was called to the factory and after a temporary dressing removed the injured man to his private hospital, where his injuries were attended to. Saturday he was eating easily, and it was thought that amputation will not be necessary.

### Safety

"Papa, what is a safety match?" Mr. Henpecked (looking carefully to see if his wife was within hearing)— "A safety match, son, is when a bald-headed man marries an armless woman.—Short Stories.

### On Suspended Sentence

Miss Taylor, who has been remanded several times on the charge of housebreaking, and who was given an opportunity to make restitution for the articles stolen therefrom, came up for sentence last Monday, before His Honor Judge Harding. The accused had made complete restitution for the property stolen and was allowed to go on suspended sentence. Mr. T. E. Weldon appeared for the accused.

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### A Sure Way

If you would have a thing well done, As Franklin would declare; There's one sure way, and only one— Tell cook you want it rare.

—The tax rate for Niagara Falls will be 21 or 22 mills.  
—Canada has been divided into inspection districts by the Railway Commission and the work apportioned among a staff.  
—Kingston Board of Education has been ordered by Chancellor Boyd to admit children who are not vaccinated to the schools.  
—Dr. E. Haanel, of the Dominion Mines branch, is to leave again for Sweden to continue his investigations into electric smelting.  
—Premier Murray of Nova Scotia may go to the Railway Commission and be succeeded at Halifax by A. K. Maclean, M. P. for Lunenburg.  
—Servaille Bornaes of Tilbury, claims \$5,000 from the township for the death of his son, who drove off the road in the dark and was drowned.  
—The action to cancel the contract between Hamilton council and the Cataract Power Company will be tried next week at the non-jury sittings.  
—G. S. Cantile, of the C. P. R., has been promoted from the office of superintendent of car service to a new office, giving him the title of general superintendent of car service, with headquarters at Montreal.

### An Enjoyable Evening

At the conclusion of the business at the meeting of Court Lindsay 181, Independent Order of Foresters last evening a number of the young members and their lady friends together with members of the Companion Court enjoyed themselves in a social hour. A very pleasant evening was spent.

### A British Hustler

Sir Christopher Furness, the chairman of Furness, Whitty & Co., whose proposals for profit sharing with his workers have attracted much attention, is Radical member for Hartlepool, which seat he has held for several years, having only been defeated in 1895 by the Unionist. In 1900, however, the constituency brought him back by nearly 2,000 majority, and two years ago he was opposed. Sir Christopher is only fifty-six years of age, and, in addition to shipbuilding, he is a colliery proprietor, an ironmaster and an engineer. A self-made man, he could give points to many an American hustler.

### State of Ohio, City of Toledo

Frank J. Cheney makes oath that he is senior partner of the firm of F. Cheney & Co., doing business in the City of Toledo, County and State aforesaid, and that the above firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by the use of Hall's Catarrh Remedy.

FRANK J. CHENEY.

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 5th day of December, A. D. 1907.

A. W. GLEASON, Notary Public.

Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, and acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Sent for tests, or on sale, by F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O. Sold by all druggists, 75c. Take Hall's Family Pills for Constipation.

### Poultry Thieves in East Ward

Poultry thieves are still on the rampage and a resident of the east ward has been called upon to mourn the loss of a pair of ducks and several pairs of prize hens. The theft took place the other evening, and the indignant citizen has not the slightest clue as to who the thief was.

### Liability

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