A FARMER ON MANITOBA

DESCRIBES THE COUNTRY, ITS CLIMATE AND RESOURCES.

Where Capital, Knowledge and Industry Are Certain of Reward—Fifteen Years Experience in the Prairie Province—The Kind of Men Wanted in That Country.

There have been so many diverse expressions of opinion concerning Manitoba as a farming country that it may well have been called a "debatable land." Its votaries are never tired of describing it as the "place of promise," the one hope of the Dominion; its detractors would have you believe that it is fit not even for a dog to live in; and between these two there is a whole gamut of opinion for and against. The truth is often found to be the mean between two extremes, but in the case of Manitoba, after a careful sifting the evidence, one is inclined to believe that "the ayes have it." One is especially inclined to this opinion after a chat with Mr. Samuel Hanna, himself a successful Manitoba farmer, and one of the largest in the province. Mr. Hanna went to Manitoba fifteen years ago and he sums up the experience of those three lustrums in this pregnant sentence: "Manitoba is good enough for me."

Mr. Hanna is a man that it does one goot to meet; large of frame, as is fitting for a land of "broad acres," kindly of disposition, of indomitable perseverance, and filled with the knowledge of his business to his finger-tips, he strikes you as

THE IDEAL PIONEER,

and the kind of man whose absence from the "Deserted Village" Goldsmith most deplored. When Mr. Hanna first settled in Griswold, in 1881, there was no railway nearer than Portage La Prairie, sixty miles west of Winnipeg. Brandon was first surveyed for town sites in the May of that year and the first sale was made in June. In fact, from Portage La Prairie to Vancouver all the town sites have been surveyed and built up since that date—a fact eminently to be taken into consideration when criticising the progress of the country.

But let Mr. Hanna speak for himself: "I went from Pennsylvania to Griswold, Manitoba," he says "in 1881. I cleared the land and in 1883 I raised two thousand bushels at eighty-two cents and eighty-one cents per bushel. There was no elevator there then. In 1884, I raised four thousand bushels, which I sold for seventy-six cents. In 1885 the crop was a little injured by frost and in that year I shipped four thousand bushels to Toronto, obtaining for it forty cents per bushel. In 1886 I sold seven thousand bushels at sixty cents; in 1887, ten thousand bushels at fifty-two cents; in 1888, six thousand bushels at a dollar and two cents. In 1889 there was a drought, which nearly burnt up the crop, the average being only about ten bushels per acre. In 1890, I sold fourteen thousand bushels at eighty-two cents and in 1891, eleven thousand bushels at sixty-five cents. During all this period I raised a lot of coarse grain and did some

MIXING FARMING.

Of late years the price of wheat has been very low and I have gone into mixed farming more and more extensively."

"You have had no reason to complain of prices recently, Mr. Hanna?"

"No, the recent depreciation has been a real blessing to the country. It has enabled those who were a bit behind to pay off their debts, increase their stocks and implements and extend their holdings. Generally, I may say that the Manitoba farmer was never in a better position than he is to-day."

"How many acres do you farm, Mr. Hanna?"

"I have two farms, about ten miles apart. The one, of fifteen hundred acres, I farm myself; the other is of three hundred and twenty acres. Of these about half are under cultivation—let to a tenant on shares."

"What was your best yield of wheat per acre?"

"My best yield for my whole crop was thirty-four bushels and I sold it to Mr. Ogilvie for eighty-one cents per bushel. I may say that of late years I have carted my wheat to Mr. Ogilvie's elevator at Griswold as it was threshed, and when it was all in Mr. Ogilvie has paid me the highest price for it. I do not think that farmers should speculate in wheat and the past has proved that I was always right in selling my wheat as soon as it was threshed and delivered."

"If it is not asking too much, Mr. Hanna, at what do you estimate the present value of your holding?"

"I have over ten thousand dollars' worth of buildings on my farm, besides I own the land and have all the best and most modern implements, and I am happy to say that

ALL ARE PAID FOR."

"I have seen a drawing of your house and it certainly looks a fine structure."

"Yes, I confess to being a little proud of that house myself. It is two stories high and built of brick; the bricks I shipped from Winnipeg. It drains into a well-constructed sewer, it is fitted with bath, hot and cold water, etc., and has the modern system of ventilation. It also has a windmill to raise water to the top floor. It cost me five thousand dollars. I have also fitted a windmill to my barn for the purpose of crushing and cutting feed, etc."

"Mr. Hanna, is not your experience unique? I mean, you do not generally find your neighbors so successful as you have been?"

Mr. Hanna was emphatic in his reply. "My experience is not at all exceptional," he said, "all the practical industrious farmers I have known have been equally successful, according to the size of their properties."

"Then why the bitter complaints concerning the country that we hear from time to time?"

Mr Hanna smiled. "Now let me give you a few modern instances," he said. "Last year, at the solicitation of his friends, I gave employment to a young Swede. He was a very gentlemanly young fellow, but knew no more about farming than a babe in arms. However, he said he was very anxious to learn and did not mind how hard he worked, so I let him start. In about three weeks he came to me one day and said he would have to leave. I asked him if he found the work too hard. No, he replied, but there was

NOT ENOUGH LEISURE.

He said, at home he had been used to read three or four hours a day and found that he could not get along without it. Of course, that is rather an extreme instance. What is of frequent occurrence though, is the advent of young Englishmen of good family, sent abroad because their people want to get rid of them. Some of these young fellows turn out well; they start doing chores, are promoted, and finally become good farmers. With the majority, however, it is different, most of them are ignorant of farming; some are idle, some are dissolute and invariably they are a nuisance. Then there is the English "gentleman," who comes abroad with a few hundred pounds, and fancies he is going to make his fortune in about three months. He knows nothing, but thinks he knows it all, and all he succeeds in "making" as a rule is making a lamentable mess of it. I remember a few years ago, some Ontario farmers coming to Manitoba. They came with their waggons and implements; they were roughly dressed, and the "dudes" I am describing laughed at them, called them "hayseeds." However, these men knew their business and the laugh was soon on the other side. I only mention these facts to show you the kind of men who decry the country; for Englishmen in general I have

THE GREATEST ADMIRATION,

some of the best farmers in Manitoba are practical Englishmen, and I only wish there were more of them."

"Now, about the climate, Mr. Hanna; that is well, rather too hot in summer, isn't it; and, to put it mildly, not exactly 'sultry' in winter, eh? We are told, too, that the mosquitoes in your dog days are very powerful and persevering, and hardly satisfied with a man at a meal."

"Ha, ha!" laughed Mr. Hanna, heartily. "In winter," he said, "the weather is certainly cold and sharp, but it is very bracing, and we dress warmly for it, we feel it, and mind it not at all; in fact, we really like it. There is no better summer climate in the world. As for the mosquitoes, they are to be found in the long grass and low lands, but in the high and cultivated lands and on the rolilng prairie there are hardly any."

"Yet the frosts play the mischief with your wheat, Mr. Hanna?"

"A little, yes, but not nearly so much as is reported. I only remember three years when the frosts damaged our crops to any extent, out of the fifteen I have been in the country. Of course, in these years the farmers suffered from the low prices of the damaged article."

"Then, to sum up, Mr. Hanna, you think that the country is 'all right.'"

"I am sure that the country is all right and has a great future before it; all that is wanted is

THE RIGHT SORT OF SETTLERS,

and plenty of them. If the price of wheat keeps at a remunerative figure, as I think it will now for come time, we shall extend our operations; if it reverts to the low figures of the past few years, there is plenty of scope for mixed farming. In any case, my own opinion is that mixed farming is best, as it brings into operation all a farmer's resources, and it can easily run along side by side with the most extensive wheat cultivation."

"One or two things I would like to add to your many questions," concluded Mr. Hanna, smiling in his hearty fashion. "In Manitoba now, good land can be bought at from three to five dollars per acre not far from the railway and settlements; of course, without improvements. I would also like to point out that we have coal fields, on the west, at Leithbridge; on the south, at Assiniboia; and that at Fort McLeod we have as good anthracite coal as is to be found anywhere in the world. Add to these things the custum that must come to us when the gold region shall have been developed, and I think you will agree with me that our future prospects are of the brightest."

A BRIGHT OUTLOOK.

Canada is on the Point of a Great Mineral and Agricultural Development.

According to the published estimate of General Superintendent Whyte of the C.P.R. Manitoba will next year raise 40,000,000 bushels of wheat for export.

This estimate pre-supposes that next summer's weather will be the proper blend of rain and sunshine, and that night frosts will omit their too frequent visits to the golden harvest field.

Considering that last year's crop in Manitoba was comparatively light, the expectation that 1897 will be a good agricultural year is not unreasonable. And if 1897 be a good year in Manitoba the wheat which twenty-six thousand farmers send to market ought to bring $20,000,000 into the province.

All the signs just now seem favourable to Canada's development. The indications are that the country has turned the corner. Across the border the humiliation of one party and the ascendancy of another are supposed to be a basis for national prosperity. Canada believes that prosperity is coming, not because one party is in, and the other out, but because there are signs of a mineral and agricultural development such as the Dominion has never witnessed.

DEPARTED GRAZING.

Just thirty-three years ago to-day, said the old soldier, the top of my head was grazed with a bullet.

There isn't much grazing there now, is there, grandpa? was the comment of the youngest grandchild, and as the old gentleman rubbed his bare poll he had to admit the correctness of the assertion.

AGRICULTURAL

HANDLING HEIFERS FOR THE DAIRY.

On the proper handling of the heifer depends in a great measure the profitableness of the future cow, writes C. P. Goodrich. We wish to bring up a heifer for a special purpose. In our case it is to produce a cow that will give the largest returns of dairy products possible for the food consumed. Such a cow is able to consume, digest and convert into milk a large amount of milk-producing food. This ability to consume and utilize any particular class of foods is largely the result of education or habit. The class of foods that are best for producing milk are those containing a larger per cent of protein than do the foods that are best for producing fat. The kind of foods that are best for producing milk are the same kinds that are best for producing bone and muscle and growth of frame in the young animal. It is important that the heifer designed for the dairy should be fed so as to make rapid growth and development, but never be made fat or allowed to form the beef habit. That would detract from her value as a dairy animal every time, for when she comes to be a cow, and you try to push her by high feeding to make her produce a large amount of (and therefore cheap) dairy products, she will refuse to respond at the pail to the full amount of her feed, but will pile some of it on her back in the shape of beef. This no dairyman can afford. When he feeds his cow high he wants her to manufacture all of her feed, except what she needs for her own support, into milk. So I say guard against heifers getting fat. Begin when they are young by feeding skim milk and a little oil meal. Then feed wheat bran, oats and clover hay and such muscle-forming foods, but do not feed to any great extent such fattening foods as timothy hay and corn. The heifer, if properly fed, by the time she is two years old will have made a good growth and will be well developed. She should be bred so as to come in at that age because she will make a better cow if she commences the business of her life, which is giving milk, at an early age. If she should go over another year without coming in, and have a good pasture, the chances are she would get fat and the beef habit thus formed would surely detract from her value as a dairy cow. The heifer, from calfhood up, should always be treated in the kindest and gentlest manner. Instead of being wild and afraid of her owner or the herdsman, she should be tame and gentle and glad to see him. When I see my hired man go into the pasture where the cows and heifers are and they gather up around him, apparently anxious for a kind word or a little petting, I conclude there is a bond of friendship and kindly feeling between them, and they will do well for him. If, on the other hand, when he goes into the field they seem to wish to avoid and keep as far as possible from him, I conclude there is something wrong in the make-up of the man and consequently in his treatment of the animals. I make up my mind that the sooner he leaves my employ the better it will be for my interest. In order that cows should do well it is absolutely necessary that they should have a liking for the one who handles and milks them. When the heifer is about to come in she should have a box stall in a stable where she can be handled and petted by the one who has the care of her. She should have a good bed and be made as comfortable as possible, and the water, which should be given frequently, should not be cold. When she drops her calf is the time when the utmost care and skill is required if she is to be developed into the cow she is capable of being. First, she should be given half a pail of warm water, and if she is thirsty, give her another half pailful in an hour, and so on till her thirst is quenched. She is in a feverish condition, and should be fed but little grain or concentrated food for the first week. All the good nutritious hay or fodder she will eat, with a little wheat bran, is sufficient. After the first week the grain ration can be gradually increased, till in three weeks after calving she can be on full feed, and in four weeks she should be up to her maximum flow of milk. To get the heifer with her first calf to readily give down her milk for the human milker is frequently a task requiring the utmost skill, and on the degree of success with which it is attended depends, in a great measure, the future usefulness of the cow. A good way to do is to have a pen into which the calf is put where the mother can reach and lick it, but so arranged that the calf cannot suck. When the time comes you wish to milk take the calf from its pen, and when it begins to suck you begin to milk with it. Do this every time, never letting the suck unless you are there to milk with it. You are in partnership with the calf. The heifer will, to all appearance, seem to think she has got two calves. Soon, by the time the milk is fit to use, the calf can be taken away out of sight and hearing of the cow, and she will scarcely notice it. One of the partners has dropped out and the other is left, and she will hardly know the difference. Her calf has been taken away, and you are accepted in its stead. You are her adopted calf, and she will give down her milk as readily for you as she would for her own. The next year her calf can be taken away at birth and you can take its place at once and she will not appear to know the difference. Milk is a product which nature enables the mother to provide for the sustenance of her offspring. Maternal affection goes along with this act of giving milk, and to be a good milker one must have some hold on the affections of the cow. If the cow hates the milker she will never do well for him. All cows are not so particular—so finely organized. With many it does not seem to matter much who or what milks them, but many of the heifers that have the making of the grandest cows in the country need just such skillful management as I have described or they will be ruined. All men who have handled cows know that a heifer will generally give down her milk more readily for her calf than for any person. Only a short time ago a man applied to me for advice. He had a very high-priced thoroughbred Jersey heifer that utterly refused to give any milk after her calf was taken away. Her udder was terribly congested. I advised him to follow the plan here outlined. He did so and partially succeeded in saving the heifer, though it is not likely she will ever be the cow she would have been if the management had been right at first.

THE PROFIT IN POULTRY.

A profitable business in poultry requires more capital, says the Poultry Keeper, than may be expected by those who anticipate making money in this pursuit. The bright side is always held in view, but the difficulties are unseen until too late to rectify mistakes.

Any merchant who places his capital in his business is satisfied with a moderate dividend. He will first charge himself with the interest on his capital and if he realizes a clear profit of ten per cent, he will feel himself in a prosperous condition. This means $160 per year on every $1,000 invested. He will make a large profit when he has a large amount invested. He could not live on his business if he had only a few thousands in it, as the profits would be too small a sum total, though really proportionately large, unless he could double his profits by "turning his capital over" several times during the year.

Compare the poultry man with the merchant. Those who venture into poultry raising with the expectation of "making a living" on a capital of $1,000 are looking forward to nearly 100 per cent profit. Many persons have such expectations, and are disappointed if they do not realize a large profit the first year, and that, too, when they do not know one breed of fowls from another, and know nothing of management.

Supposing that $1,000 is needed to support a family, then the capital invested must necessarily correspond with the desired profit. Allowing that a hen should pay a profit of $1 per year, 1,000 hens will be required, and the first year they must be purchased at fifty cents each. Their food will cost about $750, and the buildings, fences and appliances about $1,000. Some help will also be necessary, and the investment amounts to $3,000—a low estimate.

The question then comes up—can one take $3,000 and make $1,000 profit on poultry in one year? Certainly no other business would be expected to give so large a profit, and such would be a large profit from poultry. In comparison with other pursuits, the results would be considered marvelous, almost treading on impossibility, and in fact it is almost impossible to secure such a profit.

A profit is the balance over and above all expenses, and we have omitted the fact, in the comparison, that the poultryman performs the labor himself. This changes the result, for he must pay for the labor, whether he does it himself or hires some one to do it. All labor must be considered in the expenses. The proposition is then changed, for instead of securing $1,000 profit on an investment of $3,000 there is simply no profit at all, which is not so marvelous as it may have seemed.

Success with poultry, when but a limited sum is invested, depends upon whether one does the work himself or must pay out cash to others for doing it. It is doubtful if anyone can succeed who is compelled to pay for all the labor performed, but it is possible for an experienced person to make a living in poultry growing on a small capital if he is content with being simply reimbursed for his labor.

Large sums are necessary in making large profits with poultry as in manufacturing. The capitalist who realizes a profit of ten per cent on an investment of $20,000 may be able to prosper, while his neighbor on a profit of twenty per cent on $1,000 may fail; the neighbor, though making a larger proportionate profit, could not exist on the small sum obtained from his limited capital. There have been but few instances in which any large sums have been invested in the poultry business. The difficulty with the few who have placed large amounts of capital in poultry is that they have invested too much in elaborate buildings and ornamental appliances rather than in the practical side of the business.

The poultry business is one of the most uncertain, and no one can succeed until he becomes educated to a knowledge of all its details. Neither can one entrust his enterprise to another. Disease, vermin, overfeeding, improperly constructed buildings, and other causes, will all combine to reduce the profits. It is really a business in the strictest sense of the term, and the capital must be managed with brains. Success does not even attend the merchant when he does not fully understand his business.

But few capitalists are ready to make a special business of poultry, for it is a pursuit that does not allow capital and labor to be separated. To those of limited means, the poultry business offers excellent opportunities, but no marvelous results, and no ninety per cent profits must be expected.

No one should leave a position to which he is well fitted in order to embark in the poultry business. The farmer is just as competent to fill a position in the city as one without experience is fitted for managing a poultry farm. Such mistakes have often been disastrous, and it is of no advantage to induce anyone to take risks of loss. The first essential is experience, for without it capital and labor will be wasted.

The best way to enter the poultry business is to begin with a small flock and gradually enlarge, the object being to learn, and also to breed for the kind of fowls desired. No one can succeed who goes on the market and buys his hens, of all sizes, breeds and characteristics, for he will know nothing of them, and may lose all from disease or inferiority of the stock. By breeding his stock he gets those best suited to the objects desired. It takes at least a year or two to bring together a flock of several hundred choice hens, for they are not often sent to market except in small numbers. The market is filled with fowls that are sold because they are not as serviceable on the farms as on the stalls.

GAVE AWAY HIS CRUTCHES

The Story of Mr. J. McDonogh, of Tiverton, Ont.

Suffered From Two Severe Attacks of Rheumatism — Doctors Feared the Trouble Was Going to His Heart—Pink Pills Cured Him and He Gave Away His Crutches.

From the Tiverton Watchman.

Anyone seeing the robust health and active form of Mr. Jack McDonogh, who is managing Mr. A. Gilchrist's harness business during his absence in Scotland, would be considerably surprised to learn that only two years ago he was a confirmed invalid and unable to walk without the aid of crutches. But such is the case, and hearing of his remarkable cure from the excruciating agony of inflammatory rheumatism by the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, a representative of the Watchman called upon him to learn the particulars. Mr. McDonogh was found working at the harness bench, as well and active as any young man in the country, and in reply to a question about his cure said:—"Yes, mine was quite a remarkable case. Two years ago last spring, while at home in Wingham, I was suddenly taken down with rheumatism, my feet and ankles swelling so that I could not even put on an overshoe. I was in bed for three weeks under the care of the doctor, and had to use crutches for a long time after that. The next spring the rheumatism came back again, worse than ever, attacking all my joints, but principally my ankles, knees, hips, elbows and wrists. The doctor gave me very little encouragement, and said he was afraid of it going to my heart and killing me. I had read a great deal about Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and the cures they had wrought, and I determined to try them. At first I did not notice much change, but before I had taken a half dozen boxes I was so much improved that I had given away my crutches and have never required their use since. I still took the Pink Pills for some time longer and I have never had a touch of rheumatism since, and hope I never may. I can say that Pink Pills cured me of a bad case of rheumatism and I cheerfully recommend them to others suffering as I did.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills strike at the root of the disease, driving it from the system and restoring the patient to health and strength. In cases of paralysis, spinal troubles, locomotor ataxia, sciatica, rheumatism, erysipelas, scrofulous troubles, etc., these pills are superior to all other treatment. They are also a specific for the troubles which makes the lives of so many women a burden, and speedily restore the rich glow of health to pale and sallow cheeks. Men broken down by overwork, worry or excesses, will find in Pink Pills a certain cure. Sold by all dealers, or sent by mail postpaid, at 50c. a box, or six boxes for $2.50, by addressing the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont., or Schenectady, N.Y. Beware of imitations and substitutes alleged to be "just as good."

DELICIOUS WINTER DISH.

Sometimes something is desired which is a little more elaborate than the ordinary every-day bill of fare affords, and if the family are fond of oysters, a treat they will relish is stuffed oysters.

For two dozen large oysters make a force-meat with the following ingredients: The breast of an uncooked fowl, chopped, pounded and then rubbed through a sieve; one-fourth of a cupful of cream or milk, one-eighth of a cupful of stale bread crumbs free of crust, the white of one egg, one tablespoonful of salt, a tiny bit of white pepper and a slight grating of nutmeg.

Put the bread and cream in a small saucepan and cook until a smooth paste is formed (it will take two minutes on the back of the range where it should be put and where it will hardly bubble). Take this paste from the fire and add the seasoning, chicken and the white of the egg well beaten. Mix all well and set away to cool.

Dry the oysters on a soft towel and season them with salt and pepper. Now roll them in fine bread crumbs and lay them on a large dish. Divide the forcemeat into twelve parts and spread evenly on twelve oysters. Lay the other twelve oysters on the first dozen, pressing gently with the aid of the knife to make them stick.

Put into a deep plate the yolk of the egg left from the forcemeat and one whole egg and beat well with a fork. Season with salt. Dip the stuffed oysters in this egg and then roll them in bread crumbs, being careful to have them part covered with the egg and crumbs. When all are done place them in a frying basket and cook until they are a rich brown in fat at the temperature of about 400 degrees. It will take about one minute and a half to fry them. Serve with Maderia sauce. The stuffed oysters may be kept in a cool place for several hours before frying.

FOR TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS.

DUNN'S BAKING POWDER

THE COOK'S BEST FRIEND

LARGEST SALE IN CANADA.