

In 1822, the population was 681; the numbers of live stock were—cattle, 48; calves, 39; oxen, 6; sheep, 10; pigs, 12; horses, 78. The quantities of seed sown: wheat, 235 bushels; barley, 142; Indian corn, 12; potatoes, 570. The first satisfactory crop of grain was reaped in 1824, wheat yielding 44 bushels from the plow and 68 bushels after the hoe. It was gathered with the sickle and threshed with the flail. The crops varied during succeeding years, but by 1830 the colony was in a flourishing condition.

For more than half a century, however, Manitoba remained an isolated community, the first railway reaching St. Boniface, opposite Winnipeg, only in 1878, and the Canadian Pacific shortly afterwards. The farmers of Manitoba thus secured a market for surplus products and agriculture flourished apace. While the production of such hardy varieties of wheat as Red Fife and Marquis has added greatly to the area in which wheat can profitably be grown, recent years have seen a great increase in mixed farming. The Manitoba Agricultural College was founded in 1903.

*Saskatchewan.*—In what is now Saskatchewan the Hudson's Bay Company had in the early days trading-posts at Carlton, Prince Albert and Battleford; about these posts the settlers grew vegetables, barley, oats and wheat. Two flour mills were erected, but the market for the flour was purely local. In the seventies the Indians were placed on reserves, taught agricultural methods and given horses and cattle, many of them making good progress.

About 1882, settlers from Eastern Canada and the British Isles began to settle in the eastern part of what is now the province of Saskatchewan while the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway brought in more settlers in 1883. These new settlers knew little about producing crops under semi-arid conditions, and the soil and climatic conditions of the country formed problems which were hard to solve. They kept a little stock, a few cows, hens and pigs, worked hard and, on the whole, were blessed with good crops.

The Riel Rebellion in 1885 interfered considerably with farming operations. Many of the farmers hired their horses to the Government for transporting supplies, and were thus unable to work their land. A few farmers, after finishing seeding, ploughed the land in June and July and kept working it in order to check the weeds. The next year was dry and although most crops failed these farmers had over 23 bushels to the acre on their summer-fallowed land. The problem of conserving the moisture in the soil was solved, and the principle of summer-fallow remains the best for successful crop growing. The establishment of the Experimental Farm at Indian Head, in 1888, assisted greatly in the proper development of agriculture in the province.

While the majority were engaged in growing wheat, a number of the earliest settlers chose the raising of live stock as their work. Horse and cattle ranches were established in the Qu'Appelle Valley, Moose Mountain, Cypress Hills, etc., and sheep ranches around