

Douglas was recaptured and the settlers were persuaded to return and resume farming. Misfortune, however, seemed to follow the efforts of this colony, its crops being wiped out by grasshoppers in 1818 and 1819. As the supply of seed was exhausted, some of the settlers went south to Wisconsin and, after much hard labour, returned with 250 bushels of seed. Small crops followed and the people were only saved from suffering and want by the generosity of Lord Selkirk.

In 1882 the population was 681 and the numbers of live stock were: horses, 78; oxen, 6; cattle, 48; calves, 39; sheep, 10; pigs, 12. The quantities of seed sown were in bushels: wheat, 235; barley, 142; corn, 12; potatoes, 570. The first satisfactory crop of grain was reaped in 1824, wheat yielding 44 bushels from the plough 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.

In the territories now known as the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta the agriculture of early days was limited to the trading posts of the Hudson's Bay Company. About these posts settlers grew vegetables, wheat, barley and oats.

British Columbia—Daniel Williams Harmon was the first farmer in British Columbia, settling in the Fraser Lake district. Entries in his diary show that in 1811, 1815 and other years, he planted potatoes, vegetables and barley and that the yields were large, one bushel of potatoes producing forty-one, and five quarts of barley sown yielding five bushels. For many years fine crops were grown in this district and at the posts of the Hudson's Bay Company, which, together with the North-West Company, was the pioneer in agriculture in British Columbia. In 1837 the Hudson's Bay Company had a large farm near fort Vancouver, producing grain, vegetables and other crops and carrying all kinds of live stock. They had large farms at Nisqually and Cowlitz and smaller ones on Vancouver island, Dr. John McLoughlin being one of the great promoters of agriculture. With the gold rush to the Cariboo in the 50's, and the springing up of mining camps, an impetus was given to farming. This was the beginning of stock raising in the valleys of the Thompson and Nicola. Later many of the miners turned to farming and stock raising.

Progress Since Confederation.

The political union of Canada, as effected under the British North America Act, 1867, did much to stimulate agricultural progress throughout Canada, especially as it allowed the establishment of the Dominion Department of Agriculture, whose efforts have been a powerful addition to those of the Provincial Departments of Agriculture. Universal agricultural depression in the eighties led to the creation of the experimental farm system and the consequent improvement of agricultural practice in many directions. Great changes in the incidence of farming operations were brought about by the opening up of the Prairie Provinces through the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway, completed for traffic in 1886. Various changes of fiscal policy on the part of both Canada and the United States have had important results. An influence, temporarily, in the wrong direction was the adoption in 1890 of the McKinley tariff, the effect of which was largely to exclude Canadian agricultural products from the United States. Grain growing in Ontario and Eastern Canada generally was adversely affected by this tariff and also by the rapidly increasing grain production of the Prairie Provinces under conditions of virginal fertility and low cost. These conditions diverted the trade in agricultural products from the United States to the United Kingdom and gave rise to the establishment in Eastern Canada of cheese factories and creameries and to an important export