

the depredations of the Indians and wild beasts. Later, during the Crimean war, the price of wheat rose from 30 cents to \$2 per bushel, which, followed by the high prices obtaining during the American Civil War, gave many of the farmers their first real start, enabling them to bring in cattle, horses and sheep from Lower Canada and the United States.

The building of roads, under an Act of 1793, opened up the country, and soon grain, especially corn, was being exported. Cheese and butter were made, and a market was opened at Kingston in 1801. Wheat was the leading cereal produced, the valley of the Thames being noted for the quantity and quality of this grain. After the war of 1812, grants of 100 acres with provisions and implements were made to the soldiers. Legislation was passed to encourage the growing of hemp, but little success was obtained in the handling of this crop. According to the census of 1817, the Midland districts of Ontario contained 3,600 horses, 100 oxen, 6,185 cows and 1,654 young cattle.

*Northwest Territories.*—The earliest attempts at cultivation in the West date from the arrival of the Selkirk settlers at the Red river in 1812. The twenty-two men who composed the settlement immediately commenced to break the land, which was sown with winter wheat. The wheat crops of 1813 and 1814 were complete failures, owing both to lack of knowledge and to the fact that the only implement available for breaking the sod was the hoe. The yield of potatoes and turnips was, however, good, and the crop of 1815 was a success.

During the first few years of the settlement, there was great rivalry between the North-West Company and the Hudson's Bay Company, which ended in bloodshed in 1816. Many of the settlers were killed and the remainder fled up lake Winnipeg to Jack river. Early in 1817 a relief force was sent by Lord Selkirk, fort 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 1822 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