



Parish News

Hankerton

Miscellaneous Parish News Items

Over Yonder

Letter to the Editor

Sir, --- As you were always willing to publish any communication I sent you when I was at home, I hope you will not object to grant me the same favour now.

I am taking a six-months trip through Canada to visit farmers in Manitoba and the north-west territories to ascertain if the young men and boys I have sent from the British Isles have given satisfaction, and if they are pleased with the situations I have obtained for them. Considering I have sent out over a thousand since 1895, I am astonished to find how well I have pleased both parties, and the complaints from the boys or the farmers have been very few. The grain crops this season are splendid. The value of them in many cases is sufficient to purchase double the quantity of land the crop grew on, but the principal thing I notice is the vast improvement in the country since my last visit. Large areas that were wild lands in 1893 are now cultivated, and farmers who then lived in very small houses or shacks, now own a nice comfortable residence, and their surroundings show how they have prospered. I expected to feel lonely travelling over 3,000 miles of country without a companion, so I went through Regina to see my son, who has been out in the North-west nearly three years, and induced him to travel with me for a week or so; but as the grain was nearly ready for the binder he was anxious to return to the farm.

On the 6th of August I dined with Mr J C Butler, a son of Mr R Butler, of Tetbury, who owns a nice farm at Wideawake, near Indian Head. On the 7th August I paid a visit to Messrs Large and Pinnegar, formerly of Brinkworth, who are partners in a cattle ranch at Lorlie. They asked me to try some Canadian ham cured in the Wiltshire style, which had a nice flavour. On August 13th I found the brothers Northcott (sons of Mr Northcott of Fairford) well fixed at Bridge Creek, and on the next farm, and very prosperous, was Mr Richard Lea, who was born at Hankerton Field, and whose brother is still farming at Sutton Berger. Mr Robert Peacy, of Chedgelow, will be pleased to know I found his brother very happy with Mr O Averill, of Clanwilliam, who once had the Folly Farm at Tetbury. Mr R H Pollard, a son of Mr R W Pollard, of Hungerford House, Newbury, is making dollars at Churchbridge.

I am often pressed to stop a day or two for duck shooting; but it must be business first, though Mr W Beavan, who has a nice farm close to Lake Dauphin, and is a brother to Mr George Beavan, of Shipton Moyne, gave me such a glowing account of deer shooting in the Riding Mountains that I have promised, if time permits, to join him for a few days after I get through my business with the Canadian farmers. These

men are delighted to have a yarn about the old country. I often fancy I am back in Wiltshire or Gloucestershire.

One of my objects in writing this is to let their friends know they are doing well. I expect to be home in November, and shall be pleased to give any information about the North-West of Canada.

Yours truly

W Weeks

Cleverton, Chippenham.

Western Daily Press Wednesday 2 October 1901