

# Bell Farm / Major Bell Timeline



**Major William Robert Bell: 1845 – 1913**

**“A man without fear of risk.”**



© Bell Barn Society of Indian Head

Primarily Compiled by:

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## Introduction

**Purpose:** This Timeline is presented so that readers can follow the life and exploits of Major William Robert Bell and his family and associates between 1845 and 1913, as they travelled and lived at various locations in North America and Europe. The primary focus, however, is on Major Bell himself.

In many instances, references are provided to historical documents that detail the subject matter. At other times, where that text is brief, or where an illustration is available, copies of the documents may be inserted.

**Note:** In later years, probably after the Major left Indian Head in 1896, there is another “Major Bell” resident in Winnipeg, who also makes the newspapers on occasion. Care needs to be taken to differentiate between the two. In addition, a Major Bell surfaces at McTaggart, Saskatchewan, and there also appears to be some confusion between these two men. Moreover, there are a considerable number of men called “Major Bell” in the Canadian, American and British military during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. When doing further research on the Major W.R. Bell in this report, keep in mind that he originated in Brockville, Ontario, and had strong links to Winnipeg, Manitoba between 1882 and 1913.

## How to use the Timeline

**Scroll through in Chronological Order:** As much as possible, the data presented below has been placed in chronological order, starting with the birth of Major Bell in 1845 and ending with his death in 1913.

**Latest Additions:** to see a listing of the most recent additions to the Timeline, go to the end of the document and scroll back a few pages, until you come to the page marked as **THE END**.

**Word Search:** It should be possible to undertake a “word search / word find” of the basic text. However, this will probably not apply to text incorporated into photographic documents inserted into the text.

**Enlarging Images:** JPG images can be copied from the pdf (left click), inserted into a WORD document, and then enlarged by dragging the corners.

**NOTE: Text in Green** - from 11 Sept. 2014 e-mail from Michelle Cabana, needs to be reviewed re TRIPS. – starts Jan 1887

**Note: Text in Blue:** Although there was a brick factory on the Bell Farm in 1883, some text in blue refers to brickmaking possibly not directly associated with the Bell Farm.

**Note: Text in Purple:** This generally consist of comments by the authors: Marg, Michelle or Frank.

**Note: “check for details”:** About 50 documents that include this notation have not yet been found and/or read, and may include important details not previously known about Major Bell and / or the Bell Farm.

### **Wages and Money Conversion:**

Following are some references to the value of money mentioned in the historical records for the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. These values have not be converted into their current (c.2021) values within the text. However, based on the wages paid in the construction industry over the past 150 years, that equivalency is at least 40 to 50 times greater now than it was back in the 1880s, and sometimes considerably more. For example, a Brandon, Manitoba bricklayer was paid about 40 cents per hour, and worked a 10 hour day, in 1884. In 2016, a Regina, Saskatchewan bricklayer earned about \$36.00 per hour, or \$288 per day for an 8 hour day. When looking at wages, however, one should also look at the cost of living, which was also much less in the 1880s than it is today.

- Dec. 8, 1883 - Labourers on the Bell Farm are paid 35 dollars (£7) per month in summer, and 28 dollars (£5 12 s) in winter, besides a cottage each, rent free, and an acre of land
- Dec. 18, 1883 - The employees are paid 35 dollars a month, or about £80 a year
- Oct. 5, 1886 - £100 sterling was worth \$500 Canadian

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# 1845

1845 – 28 May - William Robert Bell born in Brockville, Ontario

# 1851

1851 – Katherine / Anne Elwood, born in Kemptville, Ontario

(Source: [27 Dec. 2010 – e-mail from Blair MacAulay](#) (Note: according to the 1891 census, Kate's parents were born in Ireland))

# 1854



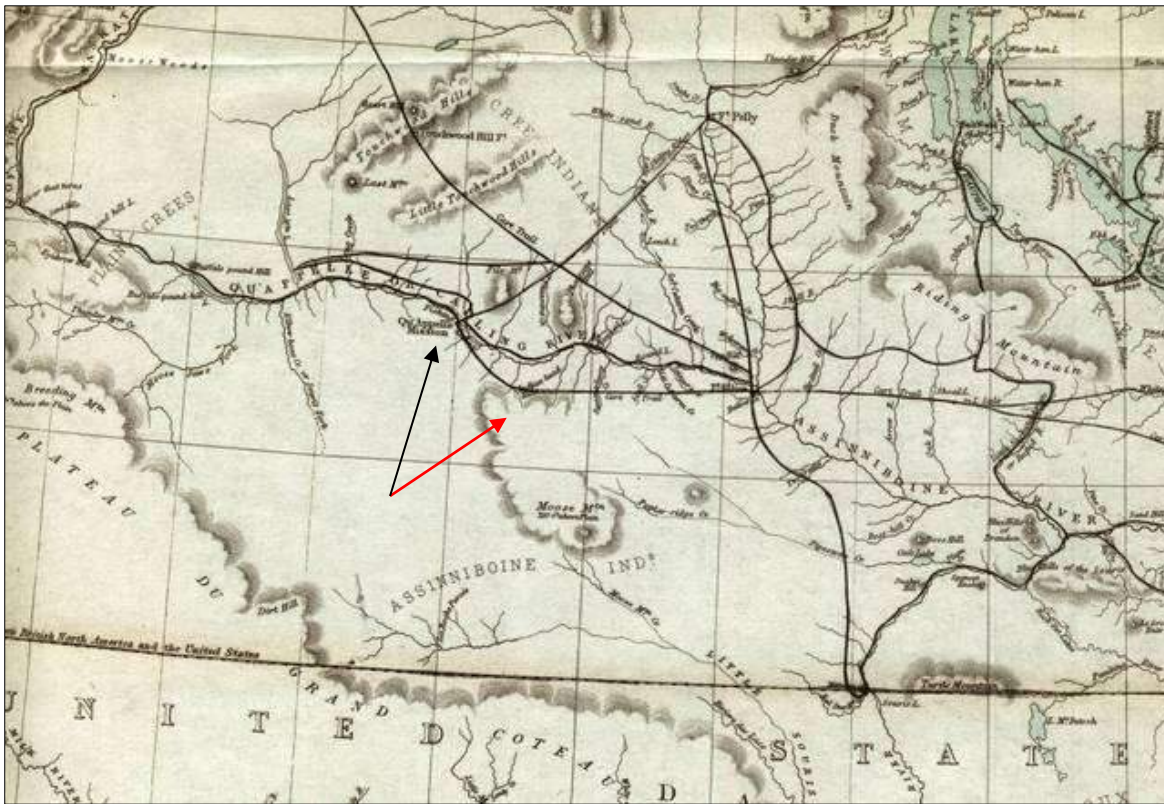
Oldest known photograph of Major Bell – age 9

*Source: Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan: Bell Family Collection*

# 1858

1858 – Naming of Indian Head and first photos of the Qu’Appelle Valley

Henry Youle Hind’s expedition into the Canadian interior included preparation of a map of the region, as well as a number of photographs, taken by Humphrey Lloyd Hime. Hime’s photos are apparently the first images ever taken in present-day Saskatchewan. Hime took several images of the Qu’Appelle Valley, which show what it very likely looked like at the time when Major Bell arrived in the area 23 years later.



The Indian Head Hills (red arrow) are apparently first identified in this 1858 map, with the Qu’Appelle (Anglican) Mission identified at the site of present-day Fort Qu’Appelle (black arrow).



The oldest-known photos of the Qu’Appelle Lakes and Valley – taken by H.L. Hime on July 18, 1858 as part of the Henry Youle Hind Expedition.

Source: “*Camera in the Interior: 1858: H.L. Hime, photographer, The Assiniboine and Saskatchewan Exploring Expedition*”, by Richard J. Huyda, 1975.

(112 & 122 kb)

## 1860s

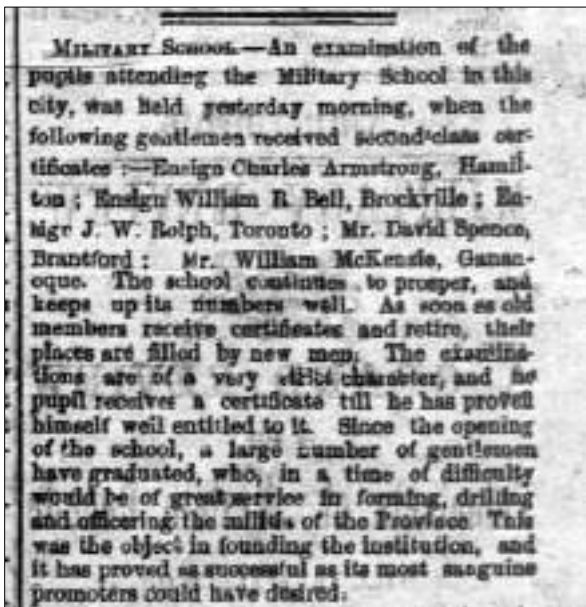
1860s – Bell employed by G.T.R. (Grand Trunk Railway) - railway agent (?) at Brockville and Pakenham, Ontario – [check for details](#)

# 1864

1864 – 15 June – Toronto Globe - Ensign William R. Bell, of Brockville, attends Military School enlists with the Militia

(Frank's Note: Major W.R. Bell, of Brockville, was initially an Ensign when he first enlisted (June 15, 1864), and was later promoted to Captain (March 5, 1867), and then to Brevet Major on his retirement (May 21, 1875).

References to a **Sgt W.R. Bell of Carlton Place** are for a different person.)



LEFT: *Toronto Globe* article on Military School examinations, including Ensign William R. Bell, of Brockville, 15 June 1864 [83 kb](#)

RIGHT: *Review of the Pupils of the Canadian Military School, Toronto*: source: The Illustrated London News, Sept. 17, 1864 [90 kb](#)

# 1866

Fenian Raid (1866): Fenians is the name of the old Irish National Militia. After the Civil War in the USA, the American Fenians were bolstered by Civil War mercenaries. In need of something to occupy this large force, John O'Neil crossed the Niagara River, captured Fort Erie, and made his headquarters at Limeridge. The Fenians defeated a unit of the Canadian Militia at Ridgeway, but withdrew to the USA when a stronger force was sent to the area. President Johnson had many of the Fenians arrested. (Source:

<http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/medals-decorations/details/1>)

Capt. W.R. Bell participated in both the 1866 and 1870 Fenian Raids, and was awarded medals accordingly.

# 1867

1867 – 15 March – Bell appointed Captain in No. 4 Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Rifles, Grand Trunk Railway Brigade, based out of Brockville

Source: \_\_\_\_\_ – [check for details](#)

1867 – 17 Dec. - Bell (age 22) marries Katherine Ellwood / Elwood (age 17) in Prescott, Ontario – [27 Dec. 2012 – e-mail](#),

[Blair MacAulay](#) : *Livingston, Edwin A. "Leeds & Grenville Counties Marriage Register, 1858-*

*1968", Vol. 27, 1988 (929.371373 at NYPL), page 39.i* Katherine is the daughter of Jas. G. Elwood.

NOTE: Elsewhere, her name is given as :

- Catherine A. Ellwood (1851 Canadian census) (double “l”)
- Catherine A. Elwood (1861 and 1871 Canadian Census)
- A. Catherin Bell (1880 USA Census) (without an “e”)
- Kate A. Bell (1891 Canadian Census)

As Major Bell later Married Catherine Ormiston, his first wife will generally be referred to as “Katherine” in this report.

# 1868

1868 – June – William and Kate’s son - Sherwood Ambler Bell – born in Elizabethtown (renamed Brockville), Ontario –

[27 Dec. 2010 – e-mail, Blair MacAulay](#) (Bell an employee of G.T.R., Brockville at that time.)



1868 - 21, 22, 23 Oct – Annual meeting of the Brockville Rifle Association, held at Brockville – shooting match.

Capt. Bell of the GTR Brigade, Brockville, placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the first match (prize: \$4); and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the second match (prize: \$9)

(Source: Sessional Papers (# 10), 1869, p. 70-71.)



197 kb & 238 kb

## 1869

1869 - \_\_\_\_\_. Brockville Rifle Association – Rifle Match, held at Kingston.

Capt. Bell of GTR Rifles: Match 4 – All Comers - placed 3<sup>rd</sup> (prize: \$5); Match # 5 Association Members – placed 8<sup>th</sup> (prize: \$3); Match # 6 – Officers' Match – placed 1<sup>st</sup> (Prize: pair of boots worth \$10, plus cash \$2)

(Source: Sessional Papers (# 8), 1870, p. 32-33)

## 1870

1870 – 4 March – Sherwood Ambler Bell dies, at 1 year 9 months – [27 Dec. 2010 – e-mail, Blair MacAulay](#)

1870 – 26 May - Captain Bell serves in the Canadian Militia during the Fenian Raids

Fenian Raid (1870): On 26 May 1870, O'Neil again crossed the border near Franklin, Vermont, but was forced back quickly and again arrested.

(Source: <http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/medals-decorations/details/1>)

1870 - \_\_\_\_\_ Annual Rifle Match, Brockville Rifle Association –

Capt Bell, GTR: Match # 3, placed 1<sup>st</sup> (prize: \$20); Match # 4, placed 4<sup>th</sup> (prize \$5).

(Source: Sessional papers (#7), 1871, p. 22-23)

1870 - \_\_\_\_\_ Rifle Match of the Metropolitan Rifle Association – held at \_\_\_\_\_

Capt Bell, GTR: Match # 8, placed 4<sup>th</sup> (prize: \$3)

(Source: Sessional papers (#7), 1871, p. 34-35)

1870 - \_\_\_\_\_ Rifle Match of the Quebec Provincial Rifle Association – held at \_\_\_\_\_

Capt Bell, GTR: Match # 6 (Montreal Stakes), placed 11<sup>th</sup> (prize: \$5)

(Source: Sessional papers (#7), 1871, p. 44-45)

1870 - \_\_\_\_\_ Second Annual Rifle Match of the Quebec Provincial Rifle Association – held at \_\_\_\_\_

Capt Bell, GTR: Match # 8 (Frontier Stakes), placed 4<sup>th</sup> (prize: \$10); Match # 9 (Strangers' Stakes) – placed 8<sup>th</sup> (prize: \$5)

(Source: Sessional papers (#7), 1871, p. 46-47)

1870 – 16 Aug - Fourth Annual Rifle Match of the Metropolitan Rifle Association, held in Ottawa

Capt. Bell: Match #3 – placed 3<sup>rd</sup> (prize: \$3)

(Source: Sessional Papers (#7), 1871, p. 30-31)

1870 – August – Toronto Globe report for 7 Sept. 1870

Captain Bell, a member of No. 4 Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Rifles, Grand Trunk Railway Brigade, based out of Brockville, participates in a shooting competition in Fredericton, among other things, Bell wins the Governor General's Cup plus 10 gold sovereigns.



102 kb

1870 – 11 & 12 Oct. – 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Rifle Match, Brockville Rifle Association, held at Brockville

Capt. Bell, GTR – Match # 2 – placed 3<sup>rd</sup> (prize: \$4); Match # 3 – placed 1<sup>st</sup> (prize: \$20); Match # 4 – placed 4<sup>th</sup> (Prize: \$6)

(Source: Sessional Papers (# 7), 1871, p. 24-27)

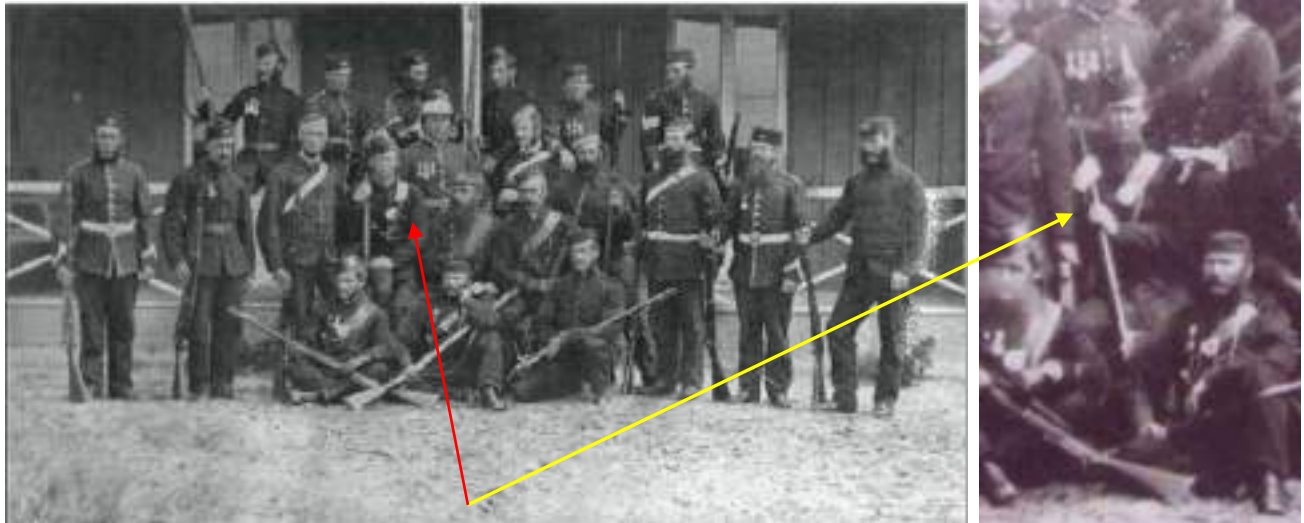
1870 – 13-14 Oct. – Volunteer Rifle Match of the Ramsay Rifle Association, held at Almonte, Ont.

Capt. Bell, GTR – Volunteers in Uniform Match – placed 1<sup>st</sup> (prize: \$20); All Comers Match: placed 2<sup>nd</sup> (prize: \$10)  
(Source: Sessional Papers (# 7), 1871, p. 22-23)

# 1871

1871 – Catherine Ormiston, Major Bell's second wife, is born in England. They were married in 1897. (She was 27 on the marriage certificate – so possibly her birth date was 1870.)

1871 – mid June – mid July - Capt. Bell travels with the Canadian Militia contingent to England for the Wimbledon Rifle matches of the British National Rifle Association.



*Capt. Bell with the First Canadian Team at Wimbledon, England – probably in the uniform of the No. 4 Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Rifles, Grand Trunk Railway Brigade, as each participant wore his home uniform.*

Source: \_\_\_\_\_ – check for details

The members of the 1871 Ontario Team pictured are:

Capt WR Bell	2 <sup>nd</sup> Canada
Lt J Burch	2 <sup>nd</sup> Battalion
Capt WH Cotton	Ottawa
Capt D Gibson	Toronto Garrison Artillery
Sgt Maj HJ Harris	Ottawa
Pte WT Jennings	2 <sup>nd</sup> Battalion
Sgt RG Kincaid	14 <sup>th</sup> Battalion
Lt J Little	13 <sup>th</sup> Battalion ( <i>Adjutant</i> )
Pte J Mason	13 <sup>th</sup> Battalion
Capt A McCleneghan	22 <sup>nd</sup> Battalion
Sgt Dr AA McDonald	2 <sup>nd</sup> Battalion
Sgt T McMullen	10 <sup>th</sup> Battalion
Sgt Maj EA McNachtan	Cobourg Garrison Artillery
Pte G Murison	13 <sup>th</sup> Battalion
CSgt R Omand	13 <sup>th</sup> Battalion
Pte Dr J Oronhyatekha	49 <sup>th</sup> Battalion
Sgt F Sache	13 <sup>th</sup> Battalion
Lt Col JA Skinner	13 <sup>th</sup> Battalion ( <i>Captain</i> )
Ens T Wastie	7 <sup>th</sup> Battalion
Capt F Werner	14 <sup>th</sup> Battalion
Sgt H Wilkinson	2 <sup>nd</sup> Canada

ONTARIO				
Captain:	Lt Col JA Skinner			
Adjutant/Coach:	Lt J Little			
Capt WH Cotton	22	19	23	64
Lt J Burch	21	23	18	62
Sgt RG Kincaid	17	21	22	60
Capt F Werner	12	26	21	59
Capt WR Bell	15	22	19	56
Sgt H Wilkinson	20	22	12	54
Sgt Maj HJ Harris	14	23	17	54
Sgt Dr AA McDonald	17	20	16	53
Capt D Gibson	14	21	18	53
Lt J Little	19	13	19	51
Sgt Maj EA McNachtan	15	20	16	51
Sgt T McMullen	12	23	16	51
Ens T Wastie	17	15	18	50
Sgt F Sache	13	20	17	50
CSgt R Omand	12	22	16	50
Pte WT Jennings	8	22	20	50
Pte Dr J Oronhyatekha	12	21	16	49
Capt A McCleneghan	11	19	16	46
Pte J Mason	10	17	19	46
Pte G Murison	8	22	15	45
-----	289	411	354	1054

Source: **undetermined** (151 kb)

Capt. Bell placed 5<sup>th</sup> in the score ranking.

Source: e-mail from Michelle: 3 Jan. 2012 (70 kb)

Also: Dr. Oronhyatekha: *Security, Justice, and Equality*, by Keith Jamieson, Michelle A. Hamilton, p. 45  
<https://books.google.ca/books?id=Xp6DQcMHY3qC&pg=PT112&lpg=PT112&dq=canadian+militia+at+wimbledo+n+,+1871&source=bl&ots=nWsk8YQ3eJ&sig=nrDqS4fmV80KOaduNqkO7yf04Bo&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiHn-mzmv3TAhVM6mMKHQ3QDOqQ6AEIKDAB#v=onepage&q=canadian%20militia%20at%20wimbledon%20%2C%201871&f=false>

1871 – November – Capt. Bell retires from No. 4 Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Rifles, Grand Trunk Railway Brigade, based out of Brockville.

# 1872

No Information for this year

# 1873

1873 – 1 Aug – Bell appointed Capt. for the 41<sup>st</sup> Brockville Battalion of Rifles.

(Source: The Army List , Nov. 1875 - p. 827)

# 1874

No Information for this year

# 1875

1875 – 21 May

Captain Bell resumes his military career when appointed Captain and Adjutant of 41<sup>st</sup> Brockville Battalion of Rifles (later named the Brockville Rifles). Also immediately appointed to rank of Brevet Major due to his previous service in the GTR Brigade. (Source undetermined) For the rest of his life (38 years) he is known as Major Bell.

Also Gazette in Canada: (Source: Canada Gazette, May 22, 1875, p. 1547: - right column, centre

“To Be Major: Captain and Adjutant William Robert Bell, V.B., 41<sup>st</sup> Battalion, he having served the qualifying period of five years as Captain in 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, G.T.R.B.”

(NOTE: V.B. – Volunteer Battalion in the British Army.)

[http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/canada-gazette/093/001060-119.01-e.php?image\\_id\\_nbr=84421&document\\_id\\_nbr=3838&f=p&PHPSESSID=7b2cobbnnfu1n47op3u4hu3i03](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/canada-gazette/093/001060-119.01-e.php?image_id_nbr=84421&document_id_nbr=3838&f=p&PHPSESSID=7b2cobbnnfu1n47op3u4hu3i03)

1875 – 25 May - The *Army List* for Nov 1875 p. 827, states that Bell was appointed Adjutant on this date.

# 1876

1876 – June 25-26 - Battle of the Little Big Horn (Custer vs. Sitting Bull) - 475 miles from Indian Head

– (EFK – This battle likely has a direct effect on Major Bell’s decision to build the round stone barn at Indian Head to replicate the basic designs of a Martello Tower.)

# 1877

No Information for this year

# 1878

No Information for this year

# 1879

1879 – April 8 – *The Toronto Globe and Mail*

Globe and Mail carried a list of Canadians who offered their services to the British Forces with Major Bell promising "to raise 100 men".

1879 – Bell-Kelso Farm established in Hallock, Minnesota (known in Hallock as the Kelso-Bell Farm) – [check for details](#)

1879 – Aug. 21 - *Kane Weekly Blade, Pennsylvania* – Bell in rifle competition – Hallock or Kane?

“Major Bell, of the Brockville Rifle Club, in a private match, made, at 200, 500, and 600 yards, 28, 32, 32, a total of 93, one of the largest scores ever made in the Dominion with a Snider rifle.”

# 1880

1880 – April 23 – Major Bell retires as Adjutant from the 41<sup>st</sup> Brockville Battalion of Rifles, and retained his rank as a Brevet Major.

1880 – June - USA Census – Minnesota – Kittson – Township 161, Range 49 – Edition 215

11	Wm. Bell	35	Farmer	Wm. Bell	35	Farmer
12	George	20	Farmer	George	20	Farmer
13	Catherin	20	Wife	Catherin	20	Wife
14	Bell	35	Farmer	Bell	35	Farmer
15	L. G. Kelso	28	Partner	L. G. Kelso	28	Partner
16	Wm. L. G. Kelso	28	Partner	Wm. L. G. Kelso	28	Partner
17	Wm. L. G. Kelso	28	Partner	Wm. L. G. Kelso	28	Partner
18	Wm. L. G. Kelso	28	Partner	Wm. L. G. Kelso	28	Partner
19	Wm. L. G. Kelso	28	Partner	Wm. L. G. Kelso	28	Partner
20	Wm. L. G. Kelso	28	Partner	Wm. L. G. Kelso	28	Partner
21	Wm. L. G. Kelso	28	Partner	Wm. L. G. Kelso	28	Partner
22	Wm. L. G. Kelso	28	Partner	Wm. L. G. Kelso	28	Partner
23	Wm. L. G. Kelso	28	Partner	Wm. L. G. Kelso	28	Partner
24	Wm. L. G. Kelso	28	Partner	Wm. L. G. Kelso	28	Partner
25	Wm. L. G. Kelso	28	Partner	Wm. L. G. Kelso	28	Partner
26	Wm. L. G. Kelso	28	Partner	Wm. L. G. Kelso	28	Partner
27	Wm. L. G. Kelso	28	Partner	Wm. L. G. Kelso	28	Partner
28	Wm. L. G. Kelso	28	Partner	Wm. L. G. Kelso	28	Partner
29	Wm. L. G. Kelso	28	Partner	Wm. L. G. Kelso	28	Partner
30	Wm. L. G. Kelso	28	Partner	Wm. L. G. Kelso	28	Partner
31	Wm. L. G. Kelso	28	Partner	Wm. L. G. Kelso	28	Partner
32	Wm. L. G. Kelso	28	Partner	Wm. L. G. Kelso	28	Partner
33	Wm. L. G. Kelso	28	Partner	Wm. L. G. Kelso	28	Partner
34	Wm. L. G. Kelso	28	Partner	Wm. L. G. Kelso	28	Partner
35	Wm. L. G. Kelso	28	Partner	Wm. L. G. Kelso	28	Partner

William and Katherine listed as resident at Hallock, Minnesota , entries # 26 and # 27, of 42 entries. (265 kb)  
Data recorded include:

- Bell, R. Wm. – age 35 – profession - Farmer
- Catherin (with no “e” at the end of Catherin) – age 20 – relationship - wife – keeping house
- L.G. Charles Kelso is entry # 28: age 28, profession: relationship – partner

(EFK - Kelso and the Bells come from Brockville Ontario, Kelso’s father and Catherin’s parents are both from Ireland; while Bell’s parents and Kelso’s mother are from Ontario. It is possible that the other people listed immediately below their names (# 29 to 35) are farm employees, as they are listed as farm labourers, housekeepers and servants.)

Source: <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GYBK-45?mode=g&i=1&wc=QZ24-ZIQ%3A1589406338%2C1589407330%2C1589407338%2C158939553%3Fcc%3D1417683&cc=1417683>

1880 – August - Town of Hallock established - W.R. Bell elected first mayor of Hallock

“Hotel Hallock became at once the center of the new town. Most of the public business was transacted there, and on August 18, 1880, the first town meeting of the Town of Hallock was held there and formal organization of the township completed. The following were elected town officers: W. R. Bell, Charles Hallock and C.J. McCollom, supervisors, of which **W.R. Bell was the chairman**; C.H. Pelan, town clerk; Henry Graham, treasurer; Peter Daley and John Forbes, justice of the peace; Pat McCabe and Henry Hale, constables; Eric Norland, roadmaster; J. Lindgren, assessor; M.A. Holther, poundmaster.”

(Source: *History of the Red River Valley*, 1909, p. 938

<https://archive.org/stream/historyofredrive02chicuoft#page/938/mode/2up>)

# 1881

1881 – Bell appointed to first grand jury in Kittson County, Minnesota:

“Annual terms were held thereafter until the year 1903. . . . . The first grand jury summoned for this county consisted of the following: J. Peter Johnson . . . . **W.R. Bell**, and D.F. Brawley.”

(Source: Source: *History of the Red River Valley*, 1909, p. 945

<https://archive.org/stream/historyofredrive02chicuoft#page/n447/mode/2up>)

1880-81 – *Minnesota State Directory* listings for Hallock include this reference to the Kelso-Bell farm:



(41 kb)

(Source: <https://archive.org/stream/minnesotanorthso21unse#page/n629/mode/2up>)

1881- June 21 – *St. Paul Daily Globe, Minnesota* - description of the Kelso-Bell Farm at Hallock

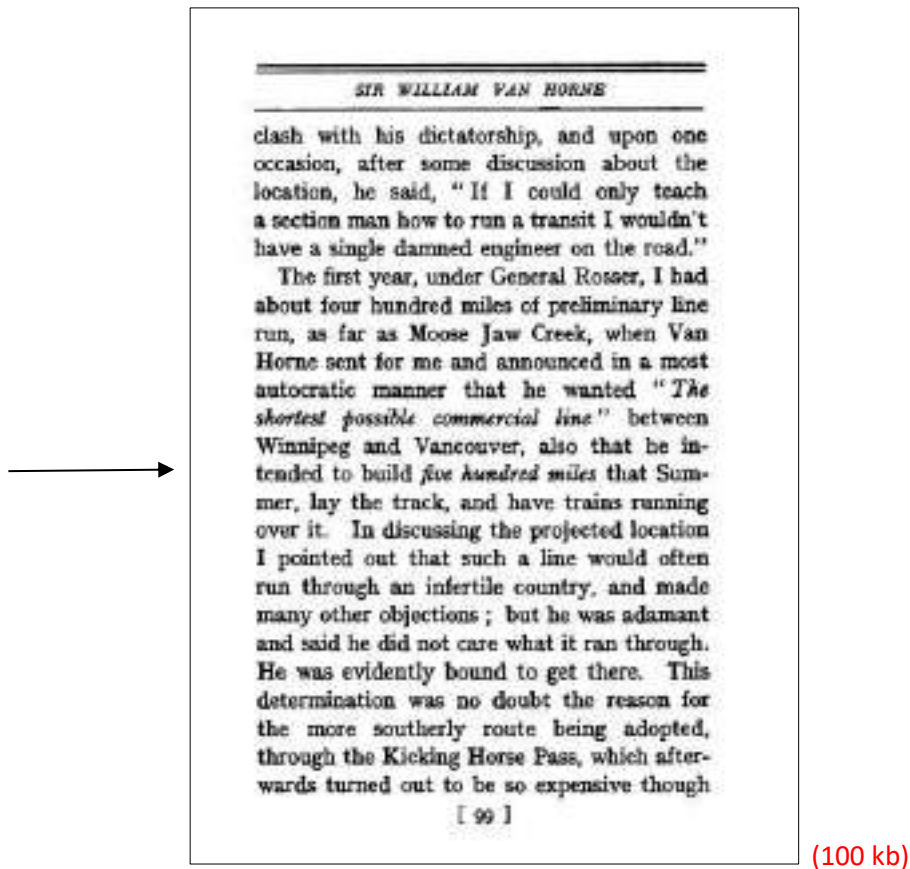
“Col. Uline, while he was at Hallock, visited the 5,000 acre farm of Kelso & Bell, on which 1,000 acres is seeded to grain, mostly wheat, now averaging not less than eight inches high. The company is breaking its land this season with four breaking teams, and expects to turn over 400 acres this season ready for deeding next spring. The farm buildings are large and substantially put up, and in all appointments creditable to the taste, judgement and enterprise of Messrs. Kelso & Bell. But the garden on this big farm was more of a surprise to Col. Uline than was its 1,000-acre wheat field. This garden contains 1,500 cabbage plants, now heading, and radishes, lettuce, peas, onions, spinach, watermelons, muskmelons, squashes, potatoes, corn, etc., most of which are well along for the season, and already in table use. Messrs. Kelso & Bell have also amply stocked their farm with the best blooded



stock obtainable in Canada, and all through are setting a good example to the farmers of the valley.”

1881 – CPR Preliminary Survey [Frank’s Note: In 1881 the CPR ran a preliminary survey through the proposed southern route, with J.H.E. Secretan as part of the Survey Party. This fact might have been a reason for Bell establishing a business relationship and friendship with Secretan during Bell’s stay in the West. With a preliminary survey staked out, it is likely that Bell would have had no trouble following this route to wherever he wanted to establish his farm. ]

(Source: [https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uc1.\\$b280842;view=2up;seq=8](https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uc1.$b280842;view=2up;seq=8) *Canada's Great Highway*, by Secretan, 1924, page 99 )



1881 CPR Survey by Secretan

1881 – Selection of Indian Head region for the location of the Bell Farm

[Frank’s Note: It appears that Tom Routledge and /or Major Bell went out in 1881 to search for the best location for the Bell Farm. In light of the amount of money being invested, it makes sense that Major Bell would want to see the land personally, but also that he would take along several competent people to help advise him on what lands to acquire. The party likely included a surveyor (perhaps Henry Carre who prepared the Bell Farm survey in 1882) and an Indian or Métis guide familiar with the region. He likely also acquired some CPR maps prepared in 1881 or assistance in terms of locating his farm in such a manner that the CPR crossed near the centre of his projected property.]

(In a biography for Routledge, it states that: “He located the land for the great Bell Farm and afterwards became general superintendent of the same, which position he filled for two years.”

<http://www.archive.org/stream/canadianalbummen03cochuoft#page/142/mode/2up>)



*Location of the Bell Farm at Indian Head in relation to Regina on the Canadian Pacific Railway (highlighted in yellow) and to the neighbouring First Nations (then called Indian Reserves).*

*The Assiniboine (Hurricane Hills) Reserve, about 10 miles SE of Indian Head, was the closest to the Bell Farm, and likely the main source for harvest labourers and cord wood. Other reserves were located along the Qu'Appelle Valley, northeast and northwest of the Bell Farm. (488 kb)*

# 1882

1882 – March 24 – Application submitted for legal incorporation of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company Ltd.

1882 List of Provisional Directors and Applicants for  
establishment of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company (Limited)

12 Applicants for Letters Patent for est. the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company (Limited)

The first 6 are provisional directors

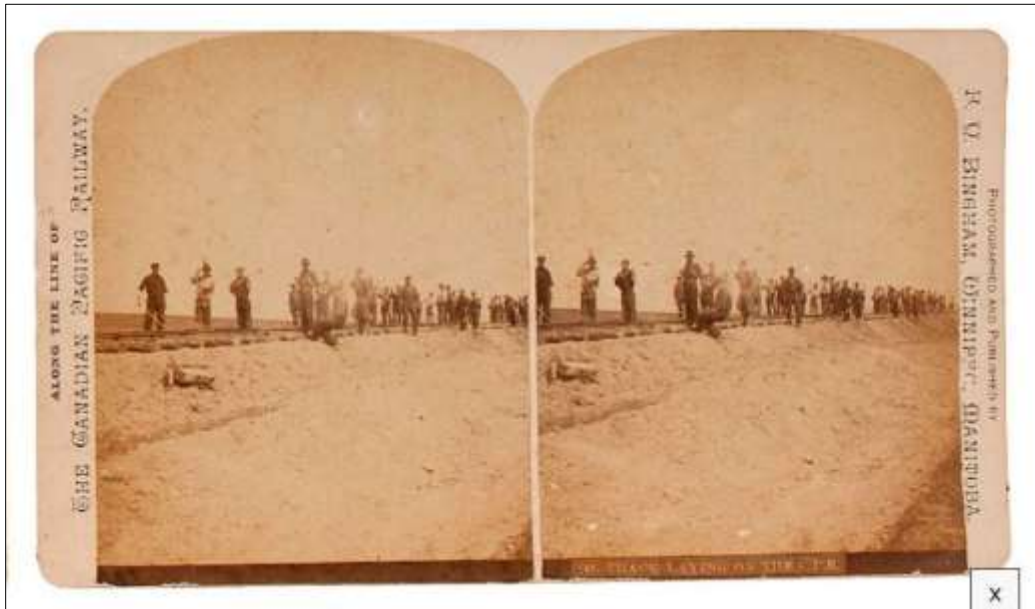
William Robert Bell  
John Northwood  
Hermann Joseph Eberts  
Robert Crawford  
William Northwood  
Francis Carmichael Bruce, of the city of Hamilton, seedsman  
Thomas Caldwell Elwood  
Edmund Burritt  
William Ryan Thistle  
Robert Zacheus Rogers  
Charles Frederick Houghton  
John Fisher Wood, town of Brockville, barrister

Salter M. Jarvis – solicitor for the applicants  
Chatham, Ontario – 24 March 1882

1882 – May 12 - Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company Ltd. Legally incorporated by the Canadian government.

1882 - about May 15 – Major Bell and his caravan of people, animals and supplies leave Flat Creek - the end of steel - and began a slow march towards the future townsite of Indian Head. The caravan was about three miles long. Flat Creek (near present day Oak Lake) was at about the half-way point between Winnipeg and Indian Head.

1882 – Canadian Pacific Railway building its main line across Saskatchewan



*Typical view as the CPR crew would have passed through the Bell Farm at Indian Head*

F.V. Bingham, Winnipeg photographer – “Track Laying on the C.P.R.” – stereoscopic image (85 kb)

Source: <http://orig.cowanuctions.com/auctions/item.aspx?id=183157#>



Laying track on CPR mainline – 1880s – (Source: PAS: \_\_\_\_\_) 158 kb



**Rapid Construction of The Canadian Pacific Railway**, By E.T. Abbott, Member of the Engineers' Club of Minnesota. December 12, 1884. **39 kb**

This point, as the basis of supplies, has suddenly become a busy centre, and already buildings are being rushed up as a consequent impetus from the forwarding that here goes on. Major Bell, of the Bell Farm, is chief transport officer here, and a man more fit for the position could not be found from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Quick to act, and pleasant to act with, the busy work goes on as if the system had been perfected by years of practice. To the uninitiated nothing appears easier than to load a team and send it forward with instructions to return for more when unloaded, but when it is remembered that the distance to be travelled is some 250 miles out, and 250 miles in, and on

#### A 500 MILE JOURNEY

a team will consume its own load in supplies, the conundrum is:—What then is done to reach the front with full supplies? The ingenuity of Major Bell has contrived the system which Lord Meiguid has credited with being the finest he has ever seen, and to which he has given special attention, that advantage may be taken of the lesson hereafter should necessity require it in his Lordship's experience. Briefly, it is this. It is estimated that but about one-quarter of everything that leaves the base of supplies reaches the front, the balance being consumed in transit, eaten by horses and men, with nothing on the road but water, a team travelling 500 miles, having nothing of its load left at the end of the route. In order to employ the full capacity of each team, stations or depots are established along the supply route at intervals of distance of 20 or 25 miles, according as the trail is good or bad, and the same teams are kept going and coming between these distances, none of them going through. One hundred teams leave the base of supplies, which is Troy, every alternate day, or 50 a day. These hundred draw loads to the second depot (Fort Qu'Appelle) for the 90 teams which leave there for the next northern station, and these 90 teams do likewise for the 80 teams that leave the latter depot for its next northern depot, and so on, until at the last station 40 full loads will be the complement left of the 100 full loads that left the base of supplies. It is calculated that the 10 extra teams on each 20 miles, beginning from the base of supplies, will draw

#### FORAGE AND SUPPLIES FOR THE TEAMS

and men upon the 20-mile route next nearer to the front, until finally 20 loads a day are delivered into camp. This system can be so adapted to circumstances that the supply can be doubled by moving the whole force one station ahead, and the good feature of it is that every team is carrying its full load at the end of its particular stage. The following illustrates the system:—

#### CLARK'S CROSSING.

Teams, 40—Meiguid.  
Teams, 50—Humboldt.  
Teams, 60—Wiso.  
Teams, 65—Swintford.  
Teams, 70—Hedden.  
Teams, 80—Houghton.  
Teams, 90—Fort Qu'Appelle.  
Teams, 100—Troy.

#### Railway.

This same system is adapted on

#### THE BATTLEFORD TRAIL,

which has been temporarily stopped on account of the raid made by the Indians, of which you will have fully heard before this letter reaches

Source: Toronto Globe: 23 May 1885

1882 – 24 May – *Indian Head history*, p. 487 – Peter Kerr helps build round barn

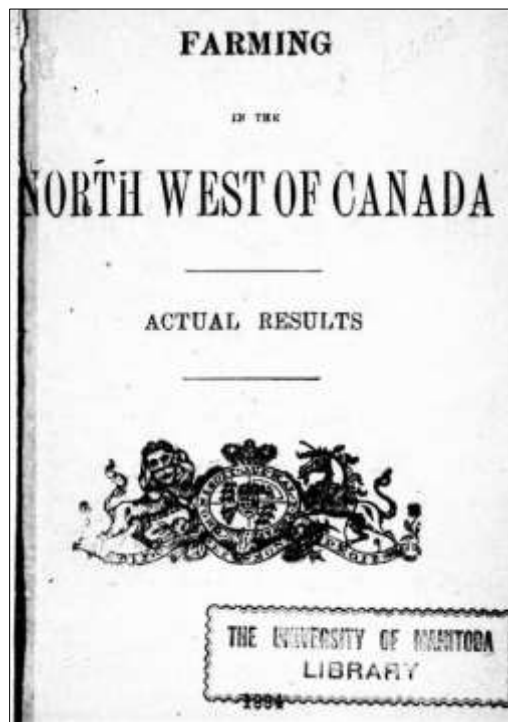
Peter Kerr moved West in May 1882, arriving at future Indian Head site on May 24, where he “helped with the erection of the Round Barn on the Bell Farm.”

1882 – June 15 – Major Bell’s caravan of people, animals and supplies reached Indian Head. **Seims an Armington**, of **Regina**, began breaking the farm land under contract to the Company.

Transportation of supplies, men and animals from Winnipeg to Indian Head

Source for the text below: [http://archive.org/stream/cihm\\_30654#page/n37/mode/2up](http://archive.org/stream/cihm_30654#page/n37/mode/2up) the Toronto Globe article also appeared in the "**Shenango Valley News**" (Pennsylvania) under the title 'A Canadian "Bonanza" Farm' - Nov 24 1882.

Book Title: "*Farming in the North-West of Canada: Actual Results 1884*" – p. 31-35 – “The Bell Farm at Qu’Appelle”



- Ref: to lime and brick p. 34, and to telephone on p. 35
- Bell Farm company is firming up with the squatters, but not yet fully settled – p, 35
- Good description of Bell Farmhouse – full cellar in front – p. 34-35
- Three-mile-long wagon train left Flat Creek mid May, arrived mid June, 1882 [Frank’s Note: An 1885 newspaper report indicated that Major Bell travelled 20 miles per day when he moved his supplies to Indian Head in 1882. Flat Creek was about one day’s train ride from Winnipeg, but it is not known if Major Bell and all his supplies and animals left from Winnipeg or Flat Creek.

Flat Creek is about 160 miles from Winnipeg; and Indian Head about 150 miles from Flat Creek. It would therefore take about 8 days to walk from Winnipeg to Flat Creek, at the rate of 20 miles per day. Likewise, the walk from Flat Creek to Indian Head would then have taken from 7 ½ to 8 days.]

- However, in a report from Professor Henry Tanner in August 1884, he states that it took Major Bell five weeks to travel by horse and wagon from Brandon to Indian Head in 1882 (distance of 182.5 miles). If correct, this suggests that Bell travelled only about 5 ½ miles per day, which is a very small distance even for that time. The discrepancy between the two reports needs to be checked out. (Source: *Albany Settlement document, 1886*, p. 12)



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Creek he has one cellar which holds 6,000 bushels, and it is so well arranged that he can, contrary to general practice, go into it any day in the winter without damaging the roots. In fact it is entered almost every day in order to see that the temperature is just what is necessary. When it is too warm the ventilators are opened. When it is too cold the aid of a small stove in the cellar soon enables them to warm the air sufficiently. Last winter they had occasion to use the stove only five or six times, and then chiefly as a matter of precaution.

#### MANURING FOR FIELD ROOTS

While on this subject for roots, it may be stated that Mr. Hardie manures all the ground part under roots, and has found, to his satisfaction, that this process increases the yield by fully one-third. In the drills, when they are opened for potatoes, manure is first spread. Then the potatoes are planted and covered up. As are the other field roots, they are sown on land used for potatoes the year before, and in that way get the benefit of the manuring. The locality in which Mr. Hardie has settled, Sturgeon Creek, is one of the finest in the Province for agricultural purposes. He has had means to make a good start and push operations when needful. At one time last spring he was paying wages at the rate of thirty dollars a day.

(From the Toronto "Globe")

## THE BELL FARM AT QU'APPELLE

56,000 ACRES UNDER ONE MANAGEMENT

The mammoth farm of the North-West is owned and operated by the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company. It comprises a tract ten miles square, which, after deducting the Hudson Bay Company's sections and the sections allotted for school purposes, leaves

A FIFTY-SIX THOUSAND ACRE FARM,

the largest farm in the world, owned by one company in one block. The land is situated on the old trail from Winnipeg to Fort Qu'Appelle, and the main buildings are just twenty-two miles in an almost direct line south of the Fort. The C. P. R. runs through the centre of this valuable tract, which is in reality one of the

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“gilt-edged” pieces of the North-West, and a station to be known by the name of Indian Head is located near the centre. Here an interesting village is rapidly springing up. In taking up this land the Company entered into an agreement with the Government which it is presumed they intend and will be required to adhere to faithfully. They agreed to pay the Government \$1 25 per acre and to break 4,000 acres every year for five years—or in all twenty thousand acres. In addition to this the Company binds itself under penalty of forfeiture of the purchase money to place each year within the tract as tenants at least fifty families, and to spend within the five years \$600,000 in improvements and in working the farm. So far the work has been pushed vigorously; the Company evidently mean business, and having been generously dealt with by the Government, will avail themselves of all the advantages to make the undertaking a profitable one. Major Bell, who has sole management of the farm, originally came from Brockville. He was one of the proprietors of the noted Bell-Kelso farm in Minnesota, where he obtained the experience he possesses, and which fits him to operate an enterprise so vast. Having sold his Minnesota interest, he will devote his entire attention to the farm at Qu'Appelle, which, by the way, is a scheme of his own suggestion.

#### THE WORK BEGUN

The plan Major Bell intends to pursue to bring the extensive area of prairie land under cultivation, and the success of his work so far, show that he has thoroughly grasped the difficulties of the project and has no anticipation of failure. The *Emerson International* furnishes an interesting description of the operations up to the present time. Some extracts therefrom will doubtless be perused with interest by our readers. When the breaking outfit started for the big farm the Canada Pacific Railway was in operation only as far as Flat Creek, a point 200 miles east of its destination. The outfit, consisting of 120 yoke of oxen, 35 mules, and 16 teams of horses, attached to gang ploughs and waggons, and forming a train three miles in length, left Flat Creek in May, and, after encountering many obstacles and enduring many hardships in the way of fording and swimming swollen streams and floundering through almost impassable sloughs, the caravan finally reached the farm and commenced breaking about the 15th of June. At the time of the reporter's visit three thousand acres were under plough and the breakers were on their fourth thousand acres, which was expected to be under plough before the close of the season.

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### THE SOIL.

is a rich sandy loam, eighteen inches to two feet in depth, with clay subsoil, and is easily broken. Once broken it does not require "backsetting," as does the soil of the Red River Valley, but simply requires harrowing to be in shape for the reception of seed. The sight of the vast stretches of rich mellow loam turned up to the pulverizing rays of the sun would make the eyes of the average Ontario farmer bulge out with amazement. The simple statement "four thousand acres" gives little idea of the extent of the ploughed fields, but when one imagines a field two miles wide by three and one half miles long, then some idea is obtained of the size of the fields on the Bell Farm, by which title the place is now generally known. Take another comparison. Were the furrows of these four thousand acres stretched out in one continuous furrow it would reach a distance of 36,000 miles, or encircle the earth nearly one and a half times. Or were the land ploughed into a stretch twenty feet wide it would reach from Winnipeg to Montreal, *via* St. Paul and Chicago, a distance of 1,800 miles. The company proposes to break 7,000 acres next summer, and will have a force capable of breaking

### ONE THOUSAND ACRES PER WEEK.

Oxen are chiefly employed in breaking, because they are most easily kept. Early in the season three yoke pulled a gang plough of two ploughs, cutting each a furrow fifteen inches wide. The season having been very dry, the sod has become tough, and five yoke are now required to pull a gang of two ploughs. It is a novel and interesting sight to see a number of the ploughs in line, five yoke of oxen to a plough, and the whole forming quite a caravan, converting the brown prairie into a sea of black wavelets, turning up a rod or more of sod at a "swath." The breaking force commence work at daylight and work till 11 o'clock a. m., when the oxen are turned out to grass and allowed to feed till 3 o'clock p. m., when the oxen are again put to work and kept at it till dark, the calculation being to cover

### FOURTEEN MILES EACH DAY.

The oxen get no other feed except what they pick up on the prairie. Eighty yoke of oxen are employed in breaking at present, and in addition to these 35 mules and 34 horses are used in ploughing and other work. Next year only mules and horses will be employed, as a good supply of hay (400 tons) has been put up, and now that the railway is in operation oats can be obtained at a

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comparatively low rate until next season's crop can be harvested. Major Bell's plans are comprehensive, and everything is done systematically. Besides himself there is a general superintendent of the farm, Mr. T. Routledge, an Englishman, and a number of foremen. At present 100 men are employed in erecting buildings, breaking, &c. Handsome and substantial stone buildings are being erected. In the erection of his buildings Major Bell has struck an idea that can be adopted with profit by a great many settlers in the North-West. Scattered over the farm, always on the surface, are to be found a considerable number of hardheads, lime and sandstone. These stones supply the building material for the

#### NUMEROUS HOUSES AND STABLES

that are being erected on the farm, and "thus two birds are killed with one stone," so to speak—the farm is cleared of stones, and cheap building material is secured at the same time. The main buildings on the farm are located about a mile and a half north of the railway station. A large and substantial stable has been erected, and a handsome and substantial house is nearly completed. The stable is a model of strength and comfort. It is circular in shape and looks something like the round elevators one sees along the St. P., M., & M. Railway, only it is not so high and is more substantial, the stone walls being two feet thick. It contains 36 stalls and two box stalls. The floor is paved with cobble stone. Overhead is a loft with capacity for 150 tons of hay. In the centre of the upper story is a bin for oats, with storage capacity of 4,000 bushels. Major Bell has hit upon a

#### NOVEL AND ECONOMICAL PLAN.

for roofing his buildings. He first sheaths the rafters with common lumber and then paints the boards. Before the paint dries heavy ducking is stretched over the boards and tacked down, and this is then painted and sanded, making a tight and at the same time cheap roof. All the building material, except lumber, is obtained on the farm. The company have their own lime kiln and have this year burned 1,500 bushels. Next year they will commence the manufacture of brick. The

#### MAIN FARM RESIDENCE

is a substantial and handsome pile. The estimated cost of the building is \$8,000 though it could not be erected in any part of Manitoba for anything like that sum. The main portion of the building is 40 feet square, two full storeys, with a wing; also two

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stories 24 x 50 feet in size. The upper portion of the wing furnishes sleeping accommodation for 20 farm hands, while below is the kitchen and a dining-room for the men. In the main building one side is divided into a parlor and dining-room, and the other into offices for the general manager and superintendent. The second story is divided into bedrooms. Underneath the main building is a fine cellar, extending the full size of the building. The residence is situated about 100 yards south of the stable. At the rear of the house an acre of ground has been ploughed for a garden, and Major Bell intends to have a garden that will astonish visitors to the farm, and show

#### WHAT NORTH-WEST SOIL CAN DO

Trees from the Lake of the Woods are to be used for the ornamentation of the road leading to the station. Near the barn is a blacksmith shop and at the rear of the house an ice-house—the latter to be filled the coming winter from two beautiful lakes located six miles south of the house. In addition to these, two large sheds for implements, located on each side of the barn and each 20 x 150 feet in size, are to be erected.

#### THE SYSTEM OF FARMING

to be followed is as follows:—It is proposed to divide the tract into farms of 200 acres each. On each farm a stone house and stable will be erected. A man with family will be put on each farm and will be paid \$35 per month and have house rent free. Will also be provided with fuel at cost. At the end of five years he will have the privilege of purchasing the farm he occupies if he wishes at a fair valuation. The farm houses are one story stone cottages, 25 x 30, plastered and nicely finished inside, and are erected at the astonishingly small cost of \$300. A number have already been erected and more will be put up before the season closes. When the place has been fully carried out there will be 200 houses, and all will be connected with the main office by telephone. Four deep coulees (in ordinary seasons they are creeks, though this year they are dry), traverse the farm at intervals of from one to two miles, and run northward and empty into the Qu'Appelle River, furnishing such a perfect system of drainage that the entire tract of 56,000 acres can be properly cultivated without doing 100 feet of ditching.

The company are closing up with the squatters and apprehend little further difficulty in settling with them.

1882 – June 15 – Breaking the land starts on the Bell Farm (ref: March 7, 1885 - *The Tasmanian*)

1882 – June 17 – According to Dominion Lands Agent J. McD. Gordon, breaking on the Bell Farm started on June 17.

1882 – June 25 – First Annual Meeting of the QVFC and Report – 10 Jan. 1883

Major Bell and his entourage reach Indian Head on June 25<sup>th</sup> and building construction begins – with over 100 workers. Previously, a contract had been let to begin breaking the land for seeding.

1882 – June – (as recorded in *Manitoba Free Press*, 25 Oct, 1902, p. 19) – comments from E.J. Brooks

“Mr. E.J. Brooks is one of the pioneers of the district. He came here in 1882 before the railway was constructed to this point. At that time there were only a few tents on the Bell Farm.”

1882 – June - July – map of Bell Farm holdings surveyed and drawn by Henry Carre



Blue Circle: Bell Farm headquarters; Rectangle with "I.H." = Indian Head townsite

1882 – Summer – Construction of Farm Buildings begins in late June

According to family tradition, Joseph Donald Turner (1862-1896) and Jack Gibson, stonemasons, moved from Ontario to the North-West in 1882 to help build the round stone barn on the Bell Farm. (p. 146 – Turner family history)

1882 – John G. Woods becomes Bell Farm accountant and superintendent (1882-1884)

“John G. Woods . . . in 1879 . . . going to Colorado . . . later returning to Canada, and in 1882 relocating in Winnipeg. After a few months he secured a position as accountant and superintendent of the Bell Farm near that city, but this he resigned in 1884 in order to work on the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railroad through the Canadian Rockies. After one year at this work he returned to Qu’Appelle and joined Major Bell, then chief transport officer, as superintendent of transports from Fort Qu’Appelle to the Touchwood Hills, later extending his territory to Fish creek and other points. He remained until the close of the Riel rebellion, and then in the fall of 1885 returned to the mountains . . . “

Source: *British Columbia From the Earliest Times to the Present*, Vol. III, Biographical, 1914, p. 363.

1882 – Squatters issue started; not settled until Nov. 20, 1884

1882 – 12 July – Bell Farm applied to purchase School Lands within the Farm area – denied.

“- 2 – On the 12<sup>th</sup> of July, 1882, the Company made application to purchase certain School Land Sections. It was informed that these lands could only be disposed of by public auction.”

1882 – July 25 - E.J. Brooks writes about life as a squatter.

at the present time for I have seen but three of them since we arrived here. I have been building a house on my lot since I last wrote you. It is not yet finished but it is merely from want of material. We make them out of sods. Mine is 12 feet square outside and 8 feet square inside. . . Sods make a very warm house, if not a very durable one. The sods here are quite different from those at home. Here they plough but two inches deep and the plough makes a sod, 12 inches wide and are square and nice so that it is not a very difficult matter to build quite a good looking and very warm residence at little expense. There is a Company<sup>7</sup> here who claim all the land in this vicinity for ten miles square this includes Edward's section and my own besides a great many of our neighbors. We do not propose however to give up our claims to them or anybody else until they produce papers to show a better title than we have. We have a meeting this evening to consider the situation. We would be very sorry to have to leave this place as the land is very good indeed and we have good neighbors and besides that, there would be great difficulty to finding again as good land as near the railroad. We don't propose to be bluffed off anyway and hope to hang on. We have possession anyway, and that is 9/10th of the battle. It has been quite warm for several days and exceedingly sultry. The mosquitoes have taken advantage of the weather and bit lively. They are a terror in this country. We build a smudge every evening in our tent and the question often arises which is preferable mosquitoes or smoke for sometimes we nearly choke. . .

(Ref: Letter published in Saskatchewan History, 1957, Vol. 10. No. 3, p. 107-108 )

1882 – Seims and Armington contracted to break land – started on June 25 – Contracted to break 3,000 acres; succeed in breaking 2, 567 acres. (Ref: Ed Morgan’s history – p. 44.)

1882 – *Manitoba Free Press* for 7 Sept. 1916 – reported that M.J. Reid came to Indian Head in 1882 for the Bell Farm [check for details](#)

1882 – 1 August – further report on squatters in letter from E.J. Brooks

“ . . . . There is a good deal of excitement here just now about the town. Where it is to be located we hear all kinds of rumors. If it is on No. 23, Edward should make a good thing and if he does I will. We think we can hold the land all right but may be mistaken. We have sent a delegate to Ottawa to find out. Of course my pay goes on just the same but still I am interested in Edward’s, and he has a splendid 320 acres . . . . ”

1882 – Aug. 9 – Letter from Lieut. Gov. Edgar Dewdney to Prime Minister Sir John A. Macdonald

Dewdney explains why he recommended Pile of Bones (Regina) as the new capital of the NWT instead of Moose Jaw [*land not as good as at Regina*] or the Bell Farm (Indian Head) [*located too far east*].

<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/CollectionSearch/Pages/record.aspx?app=fonandcol&IdNumber=467128&new=-8585866793113422484>

(Source: Library and Archives Canada: Sir John A. Macdonald Papers, Vol. 211, items 89712 – 89732)

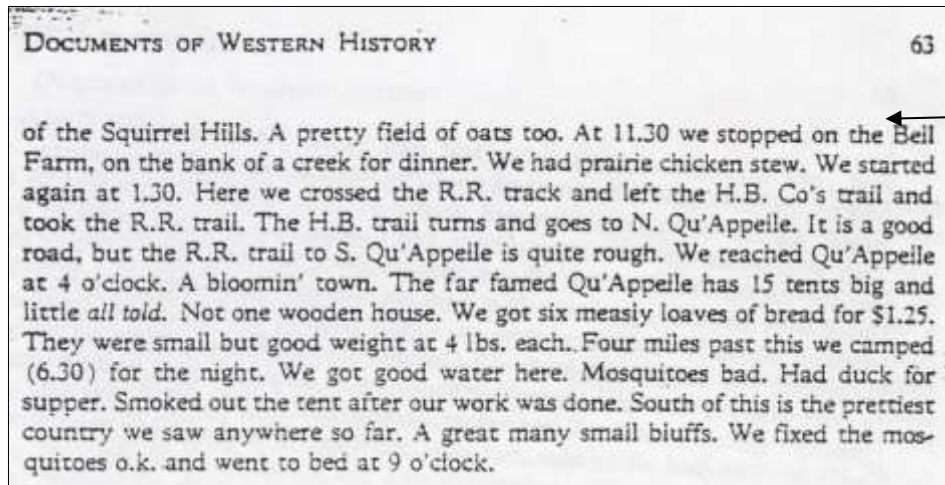
1882 – Mid August – construction starts on the Bell Farm (ref: March 7, 1885 - *The Tasmanian*)

1882 – Aug 23 – Diary of Robert Martin – travel to Lumsden from Ontario by train, boat and wagon

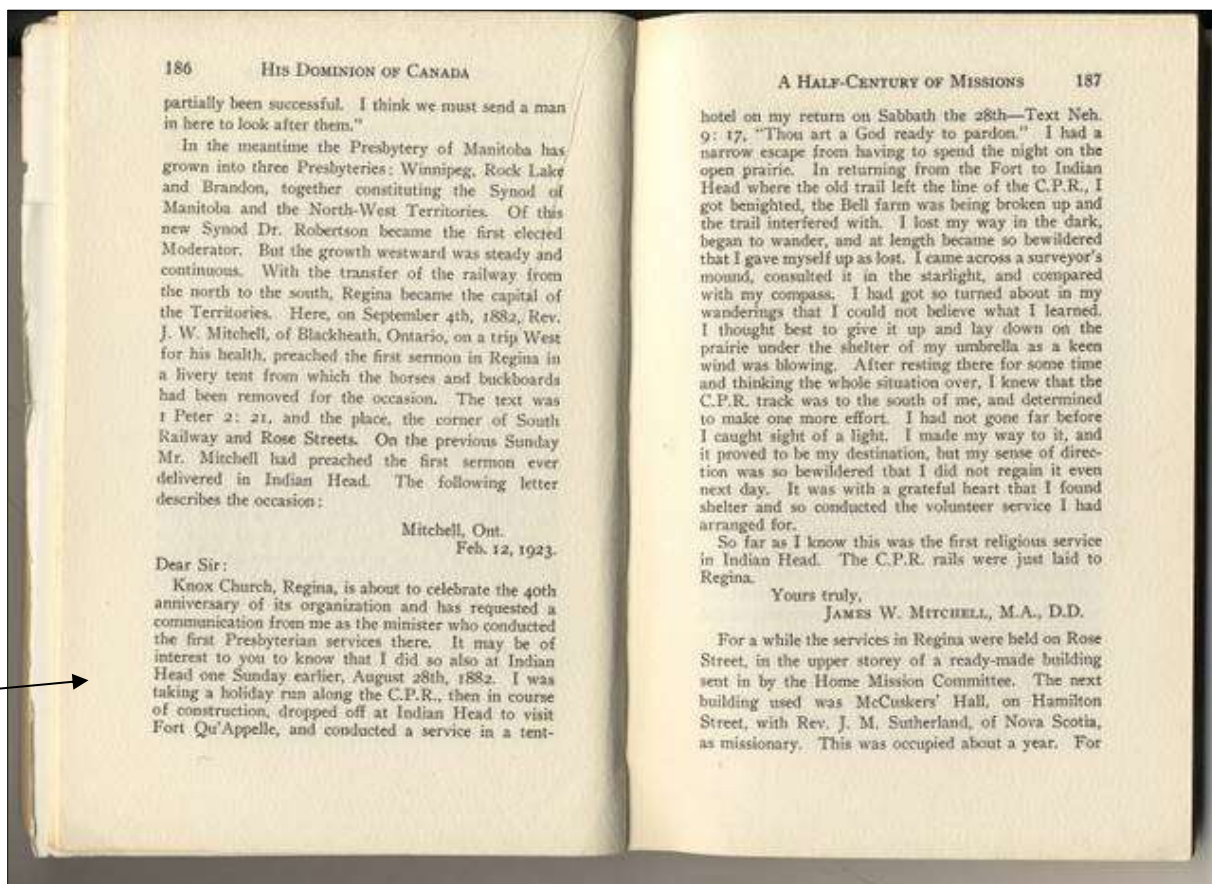
Wednesday August 23rd

We rose this a.m. feeling pretty stiff and tired. The mosquitoes were so troublesome that we didn't have a satisfactory sleep. We rose at 4, and after the usual order of packing up, breakfast, and loading everything on the waggon, we started away at 6 o'clock. All forenoon we passed through a pretty piece of country. The sloughs are mostly all dry. A great number of bluffs— small scrubby bushes grow around them. Along the road we raised a covey of prairie chickens. The guns were ahead; however Jack Bruce killed a couple with his revolver. We passed a very pretty spot, quite a lot of timber (poplars) growing on the face





1882 – Aug. 28 – Presbyterian minister, Rev. James W. Mitchell, gets lost while trying to cross the Bell Farm, as the trails were being plowed over:



Source: "His Dominion of Canada: A Half Century of Missions", by Dr. Edmund H. Oliver, 1932. [531 kb](#)

1882 – Sept. 17 – further report on squatters from E. J. Brooks letter

So. Qu'Appelle  
17 Sept. 1882

... We heard yesterday through two different sources that the government had decided to give us our land. If true this is good news. The squatters at Regina are a worse lot than we are here. The govt. have been trying to get them to give up the land and they not only refuse to do so but have banded together and go armed and are determined to fight it out. Probably the govt. will give them the land all right. I don't believe the Mounted Police will make Regina their headquarters as their major has condemned the place on account of the scarcity of wood and the poor quality of the water. The water all through this country is

1882 – October – Bell Barn construction completed – Guy May letter, Dec. 25, 1882

1882 – Nov. 23 – *Winnipeg Free Press* – Steam Plow for Bell Farm – (published in *Fifty Years Ago* – Nov. 23, 1932)

“A steam plow for the Qu'Appelle Farming company, manufactured by Haggart and company of Brampton, Ont., arrived in Winnipeg, and was greatly admired as it was driven up Main Street, drawn by four horses,”

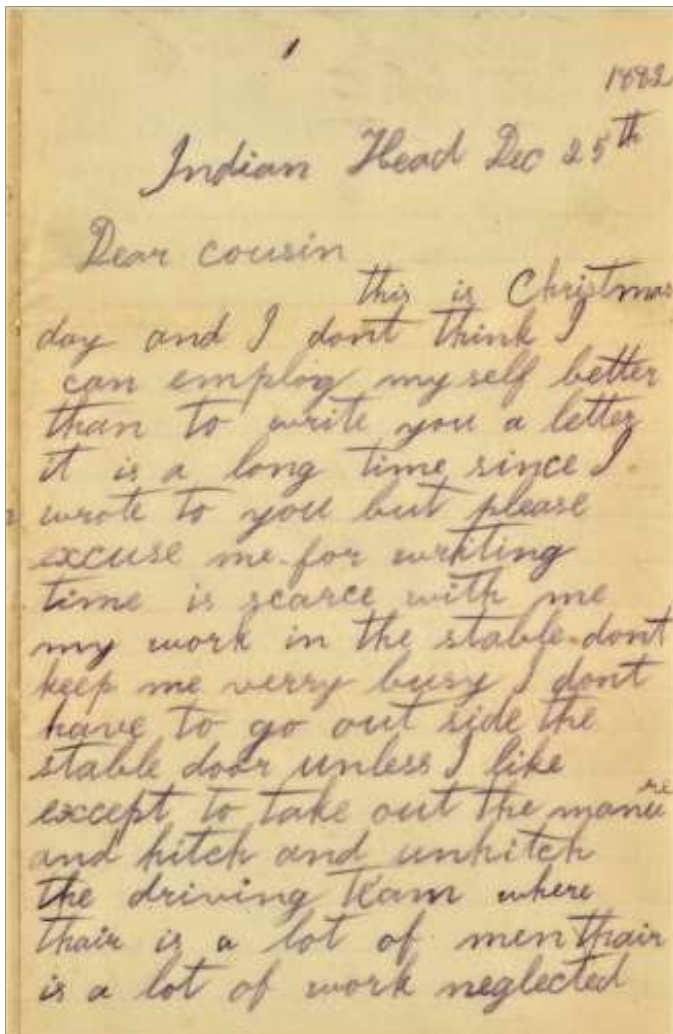
1882 – Dec. 29 – *Brandon Daily Mail*, p. 4 – Major & Mrs. Bell pass through Brandon on train going east. (No indication what the destination will be.)

“Major Bell, manager of the 50,000 acre farm at Indian Head, known as the “Bell Farm”, and owned by the Qu'Appelle Farming Co., was a passenger on the west bound express train yesterday, accompanied by his wife. The Major informed a MAIL representative that during the summer season the company broke up four thousand acres, and will break as many more next season, while that broken the past season will be cropped. The Bell farm is the largest and probably the finest in the world, comprising a splendid track of land lying between the C.P. Railway and the Qu'Appelle River. Substantial stone residences and stables have been erected and altogether about \$100,000 was expended in improvements last season. In the hands of major Bell, who has had considerable experience in farming on a large scale in the Red River Valley, the farm will no doubt be made a financial success and will do much to advertise the capabilities of the soil and of our glorious Northwest. This famous farm is located about 100 miles west of Brandon.”

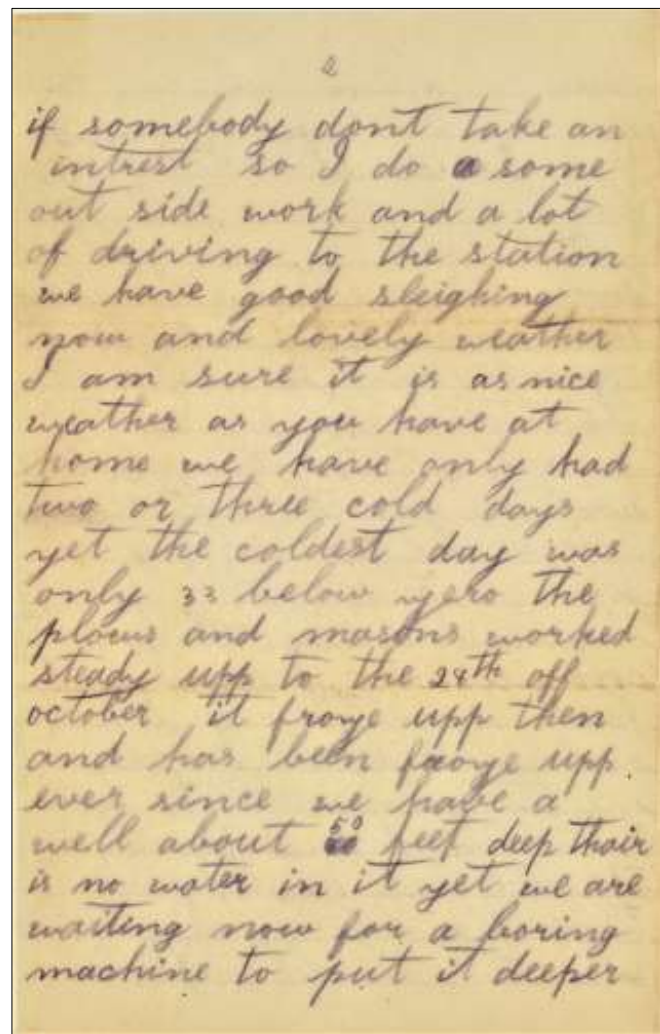
1882 – John Aird sent by Bank of Commerce [in Winnipeg] to help clean up the Bell Farm's “banking difficulties” – as reported in an obituary for Aird in: *The Globe and Mail*, Dec 1, 1938.

“... **Authority on the West.** Gradually [Aird] climbed, and as he climbed he learned more and more about the [banking] business. He had been there only four years when he was given the unusual and, as it must have seemed to him, startling job of proceeding to the Bell farm at Indian Head, which was then the largest farm in the world, and which, in fact, was so big that if had got into banking difficulties, it must be assumed that city-bred thought he was he did a satisfactory job, for later on the 60,000 acres were to become worth \$2,000,000 . . .”

1882 – Dec. 25 – Christmas at the Bell Farm – Guy May, who worked inside the Bell Barn, wrote this letter to his cousin in Ontario, and included a drawing of the Bell Barn floor plan. A transcript of the text includes the original spelling.



1882  
Indian Head Dec 25<sup>th</sup>  
Dear cousin  
this is Christmas day and I don't think I can employ myself better than to write you a letter it is a long time since I wrote to you but please excuse me for writing time is scarce with me my work in the stable don't keep me very busy I don't have to go out side the stable door unless I like except to take out the manure and hitch and unhitch the driving team where there is a lot of men there is a lot of work neglected



if somebody don't take an interest so I do some out side work and a lot of driving to the station we have good sleighing now and lovely weather I am sure it is as nice weather as you have at home we have only had two or three cold days yet the coldest day was only 33 below zero the plows and masons worked steady up to the 28<sup>th</sup> off October it froze up then and has been froze up ever since we have a well about 60 feet deep there is no water in it yet we are waiting now for a boring machine to put it deeper

Page 1 172 kb

Page 2 167 kb

**(PAGE 1)** "Indian Head Dec 25<sup>th</sup> 1882

Dear Cousin: This is Christmas day and I don't think I can employ myself better than to write you a letter. It is a long time since I wrote to you but please excuse me for writing time is scarce with me. My work in the stable don't keep me very busy. I don't have to go out side the stable door unless I like except to take out the manure and hitch and unhitch the driving team where there is a lot of men. There is a lot of work neglected

**(PAGE 2)** if somebody don't take an interest, so I do some out side work and a lot of driving to the station. We have good sleighing now and lovely weather. I am sure it is as nice weather as you have at home. Only had two or three cold days yet the coldest day was only 33 below zero. The plows and masons worked steady up to the 28<sup>th</sup> off October. It froze

upp then and has been froze upp ever since. We have a well about 50 feet deep. Thair is no water in it yet. We are waiting now for a boring machine to put it deeper.

<sup>3</sup>  
 Thair is a team draws water from a small spring about 3 miles we have a big kettle like uncles guys and I melt a lot off snow for the house and horses  
 the house stands about 200 feet from the stable opposite the south door it is a big two story cottage roof the front part is ~~40x36~~ 40x36 and the back part is 40x26 it is costing 11 or 12 thousand dollars thair is 2000 bushels of lime in it lime is worth one dollar a bushel here you asked me in your letter to tell you how I liked the country climate and way of farming I like the country and climate well better than I

<sup>4</sup>  
 cards  
 that I recored them from  
 Tell James, Mary and Jerry I expected I would. as for farming I cant tell you much about it as about winnipeg thair is very litte done as it is used more for pasture and as for here thair was nothing except indians and half breeds until last spring and they did not do any farming the breaking that is done on this farm is very rough as I told you in my last letter if it gives a good crop the country will be all right for farming the company has laid out eighty thousand dollars here all ready they talk of having 800 horses here next summer

Page 3

181 kb

Page 4

179 kb

**(PAGE 3)** Thair is a team draws water from a small spring about 3 miles. We have a big kettle like Uncle Guy's and I melt a lot off snow for the house and horses.

The house stands about 200 feet from the stable opposite the south door. It is a big two story cottage roof. The front part is 40 x 36 and the back part is 40 x 26. It is costing 11 or 12 thousand dollars. Thair is 2000 bushels of lime in it. Time is worth one dollar a bushel here. You asked me in your letter to tell you how I liked the country climate and way of farming. I like the country and climate well better than I

**(PAGE 4)** I expected I would. As for farming, I can't tell you much about it as about Winnipeg. Thair is very little done as it is used more for pasture and as for here, thair was nothing except Indians and half breeds until last spring and that they did not do any farming. The breaking that is done on this farm is very rough as I told you in my last letter. If it gives a good crop, the country will be all right for farming. The company has laid out eighty thousand dollars here all ready. They talk of having 800 horses here next summer.

(at top of page 4, this final note: "Tell Jeny, Mary and Aunt that I received their pretty cards.")

5  
 when I comenced this letter I think you would just be eating your Christmas dinner I would of liked to be with you but thair is two thousand long miles between us we had a very good dinner here we had turkey potatoes and all we needed and for supper we had ducks plums peaches fruit cake and all we wanted I think I have told you about all now I will give you the names of all the men on the farm and where they came from  
 W.R. Bell manager Brockville  
 T Rutlege assistant manager England  
 Mr. Field Brockville was book keeper he is not here now

6  
 Wm Maclary Brockville foreman  
 Wm Hyde England  
 Arthur Hyde England  
 Joe Norwood England  
 Arthur Page Montreal  
 Luis Arnold Germany  
 Jogn Wiulliamson Brockvillr  
 Jim Harrop and I  
 Mrs. Mcalary Miss Janet Steward Brockville  
 no more this time except that I am well hoping you are all the same  
 I remain your affectionat  
 Cousin Guy May  
 Indian Head  
 North West Territory  
 please write soon

Page 5

181 kb

Page 6

184 kb

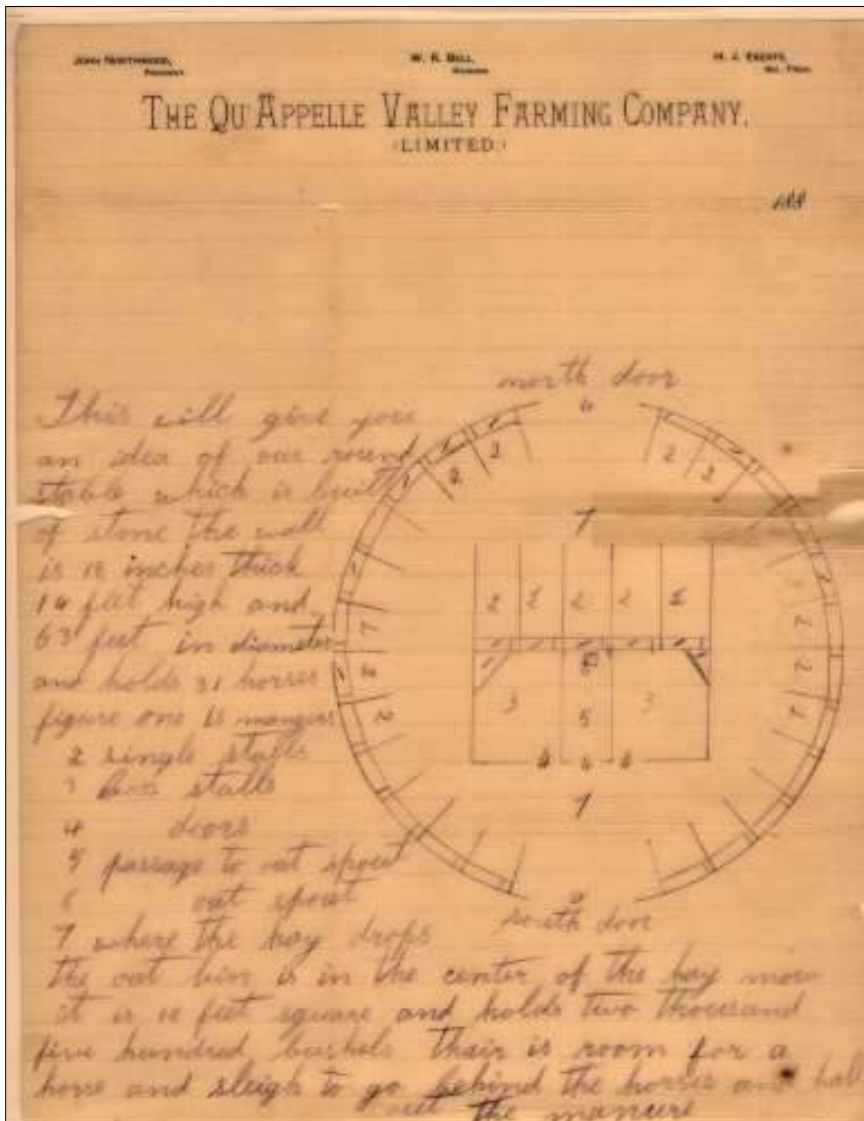
**(PAGE 5)** When I comenced this letter I think you would just be eating your Christmas dinner. I would of liked to be with you but thair is two thousand long miles between us. We had a very good dinner here. We had turkey, potatoies and all we needed and for supper we had ducks, plums, peaches, fruit cake and all we wanted.

I think I have told you about all now. I will giuve youy the names of all the men on the farem and where they came from.

W.R. Bell, manager, Brockville, Ont. ; T. Rutlege, assistant manager, England; Mr. Field, Brockville was book keeper, he is not here now;

**(Page 6)** Wm. Maclary, Brockville, foreman; Wm. Hyde, England; Arthur Hyde, England; Joe Norwood, England; Arthur Page, Montreal; Luis Arnold, Germany; Jogn Wiulliamson, Brockvillr; Jim Harrop and I; Mrs. Mcalary, Miss Janet Steward, Brockville.

No more this time except that I am well. Hoping you are all the same. I remain your affectiuonat Council Guy May, Indian Head, North West Territory. Please write soon.



Page 7

184 kb

**(PAGE 7)** This will give you an idea of our round stable which is built of stone. The wall is 18 inches thick, 14 feet high and 63 feet in diameter and holds 31 horses. Figure one is mangers

2 - single stables

3 - box stalls

4 - doors

5 - passage to oat spout

6 - oat spout

7 - where the hay drops

The oat bin is in the centre of the hay mow. It is 16 feet square and holds two thousand five hundred bushels. Thair is room for a horse and sleigh to go behind the horses and hall out the manure.”

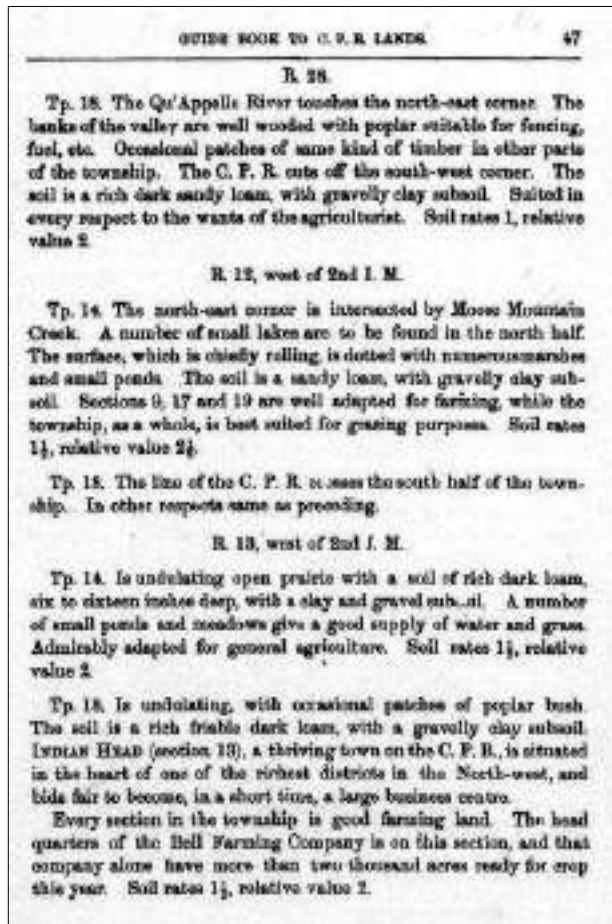
1882 – Dec. 29 – *Brandon Daily Mail*, p. 4 – Major and Katherine Bell on train west to Indian Head

“Major Bell, manager of the 50,000 acre farm at Indian Head, and owned by the Qu’Appelle Farming Co., was a passenger on the west bound express train yesterday, accompanied by his wife. The Major informed a MAIL representative that during the summer season the company broke up four thousand acres, and will break as many more next season, while that broken the past season will be cropped. The Bell farm is the largest and probably the finest in the world, comprising a splendid track of land lying between the C.P. Railway and the Qu’Appelle River. Substantial stone residences and stables have been erected and altogether about \$100,000 was expended in improvements last season. In the hands of Major Bell, who has had considerable experience in farming on a large scale in the Red River Valley, the farm will no doubt be made a financial success and will do much to advertise the capabilities of the soil of our glorious Northwest. The famous farm is located about 100 miles west of Brandon.”

# 1883

1883 – Farm building construction completed

1883 – *Guide Book to Canadian Pacific Railway Lands* – p. 47



90 kb

1883 - Dominion Lands Grants to the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company – [check for details](#)

(Source: Glenbow Archives: Series 4: M-6531-17: Legal Documents: 1887-1890)

1883 – Jan. 10 – First Annual Meeting and Report of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company

1883 – Jan. 10 – Bell Farm head office moved from Chatham, Ont. to Winnipeg, Man.

“A notice dated 10<sup>th</sup> January, 1883, states that the chief place of business has been changed from Chatham, Ontario to Winnipeg, Manitoba, and also that the number of directors has been increased. This notice is quoted in full (attached).”

(Source: Memorandum from A.E. Mann, Dept of Mines & Resources, to Mr. Turner, 21 April 1938)

1883 – Feb. 27 - update from E.J. Brooks on squatter situation at Indian Head and Regina



So. Qu'Appelle  
17 Sept. 1882

... We heard yesterday through two different sources that the government had decided to give us our land. If true this is good news. The squatters at Regina are a worse lot than we are here. The govt. have been trying to get them to give up the land and they not only refuse to do so but have banded together and go armed and are determined to fight it out. Probably the govt. will give them the land all right. I don't believe the Mounted Police will make Regina their headquarters as their major has condemned the place on account of the scarcity of wood and the poor quality of the water. The water all through this country is

1883 – March 1 – *Regina Leader*, p. 1 – first issue of the *Regina Leader* included Bell Farm mention

“Mr. Watson moved for correspondence respecting the Qu'Appelle Farming Company” (Frank: – possibly Dixie Watson, Clerk of Court, March 15, 1883; and returning officer in 1886 election)

1883 – March 3 – Letter from E.J. Books (a previous squatter) to his wife Nellie describing his carpentry work on the Bell Farm. (Source: Sask. History magazine: [https://file.ac/bVVZ6WWFP10/SKHistory\\_Vol11\\_No1.pdf](https://file.ac/bVVZ6WWFP10/SKHistory_Vol11_No1.pdf))

Indian Head,  
7th March, 1883.

My dear Nellie:

I wrote to you last week from Broadview and I believe I told you that I thought of coming up here. I left there Wednesday night and on arriving here found most of the boys away. From all I can learn the squatters intend to remain on their claims and defy the government. I am trying to find another section, that is, I am asking questions but not travelling around the country which would be useless at this time of the year. I cannot say at present if I will be able to find anything. I hired out as carpenter the day I came up and am working on the Bell farm. We are putting up fifteen or twenty buildings. I have been working since Friday morning and like the job very well; it is not nearly as hard work as on the Railroad and I can get rather better pay. I start at \$2.00 a day. Will probably get more later on; if not, I may get a better chance on the Railroad as carpenter. There are three of us together boarding ourselves. We live in a little portable house 6 feet by 14 feet—with 2 double bunks across the end to sleep in. We have 2 little dogs in the outfit as well. One of my companions is a cook so that we can have good victuals and well cooked. It will cost us very much less than boarding at the farm house where they charge \$4.50 a week and besides we are right close to our work all the time as our little house is carted wherever we are required to work. We work from 7 to 6. There was a regular blizzard here this morning so that we could not get to work until noon. I was up to my tent last Sunday and brought down my blankets which were all right excepting a hole or two where the mice got at them. We had no light last night and had to make bread in the dark. It wasn't a very easy job but we managed it all right. We take turns about getting up and making the fires. I had to buy a saw and hammer and a pair of shoes, my boots were too cold at times and my moccasins were worn out. With very much love for yourself and the boys.

1883 – March 6 – Letter from Major Bell to Sir John A. Macdonald (Min. of the Interior), promoting hiring of indigenous people on the Bell Farm:

“- 2 - Another very important benefit which the Country will derive from our Farm is the employment of Indians in the harvest fields. I have conferred with the Indian Commissioner on the matter and he has promised assistance and also have spoken to several of the Chiefs in our neighbourhood who seemed pleased with the proposition and the prospects of earning good wages and at the same time learning how to farm.”

(Source: Memorandum from A.E. Mann, Dept of Mines & Resources, to Mr. Turner, 21 April 1938)

1883 – March 6 – Bell applies for Land on which Town of Indian Head will be built

“In another letter dated 6<sup>th</sup> March ,1883, Mr. Bell makes application for letters patent for Section 24, Township 18, Range 13, west of the 2<sup>nd</sup> meridian. (now the site of Indian Head, Saskatchewan) In this letter Mr. Bell states:

“In complying with the settlement conditions, our Company finds it necessary to build other than farm buildings (in order to provide for the twelve hundred to fifteen hundred people we are obliged to place within our limits,) such as Hotels, Stores, Warehouses, Churches, and School Houses.”

“We are also endeavouring to induce Merchants, Manufacturers and Mechanics to settle within our possessions. In order to do this we must be in a position to give a Deed to those who will locate in our Town.”

“This section of land, excepting that portion required for railway purposes, was sold to the Farming Company at the rate of \$8.00 per acre and Letters Patent were issued in the name of the Qu’Appelle Valley Farming Company Limited on the 30<sup>th</sup> of May, 1883.”

(Source: Memorandum from A.E. Mann, Dept of Mines & Resources, to Mr. Turner, 21 April 1938)

1883 – March 14 – Brooks further describes his carpentry work on the Bell Farm

Indian Head,  
14th March, 1883.

I suppose you will feel anxious to know how I am getting along in my new place and I must try and tell you all about it. We live about 3 miles from Indian Head on the Bell farm, and we move our house on a pair of sleds with 2 horses

DOCUMENTS OF WESTERN HISTORY

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as often as our place of work gets too far away to walk conveniently back and forth for meals. I have got along nicely so far and find the work very much easier and more interesting than working on the Railroad. We are able to buy bread but sometimes make it, as well as biscuits, and use baking powder instead of yeast. We have oatmeal, rice, prunes, dried apples, bacon, beans, etc. For the last 2 days we have eaten beans at every meal and I am cooking some more to-night. They taste better here than at home but are very much more expensive (\$6.00 a bushel). I get up first every other morning to prepare breakfast, and generally get up about quarter past five which does not agree with me very well. I have not been down to the city but once since I left Broadview so that you can see I am quite steady; if my wife was there *perhaps* I would go oftener. There are but two of us now, the other chap was quite sick with a bad cold and went down to the city and has not yet returned. Four of us can get out, and put up easily two house frames in a day, the houses are 23 x 26, one story high with a roof like the Hawse's. Our object is to put them up strong, cheap and speedily. We had a couple of blizzards last week, half day Thursday, all Friday night and all day Friday; the last day was a caution, we worked all that day most of the time inside and got along first rate. I expect we will have some more of the same kind before April. If there is no loose snow it is not nearly as bad—snow is going quite rapidly under the influence of the wind and sun. You would hardly know me now that I have got so black. I must try and send you a rough sketch of our home inside and outside . . . .

(18th). Haven't rec'd a letter from you for 3 weeks. Down town to-day squatters say they are going to stay on their land.

1883 – March 23 – Update on squatters from E.J. Brooks letter to Nellie; also reports on his carpentry work.

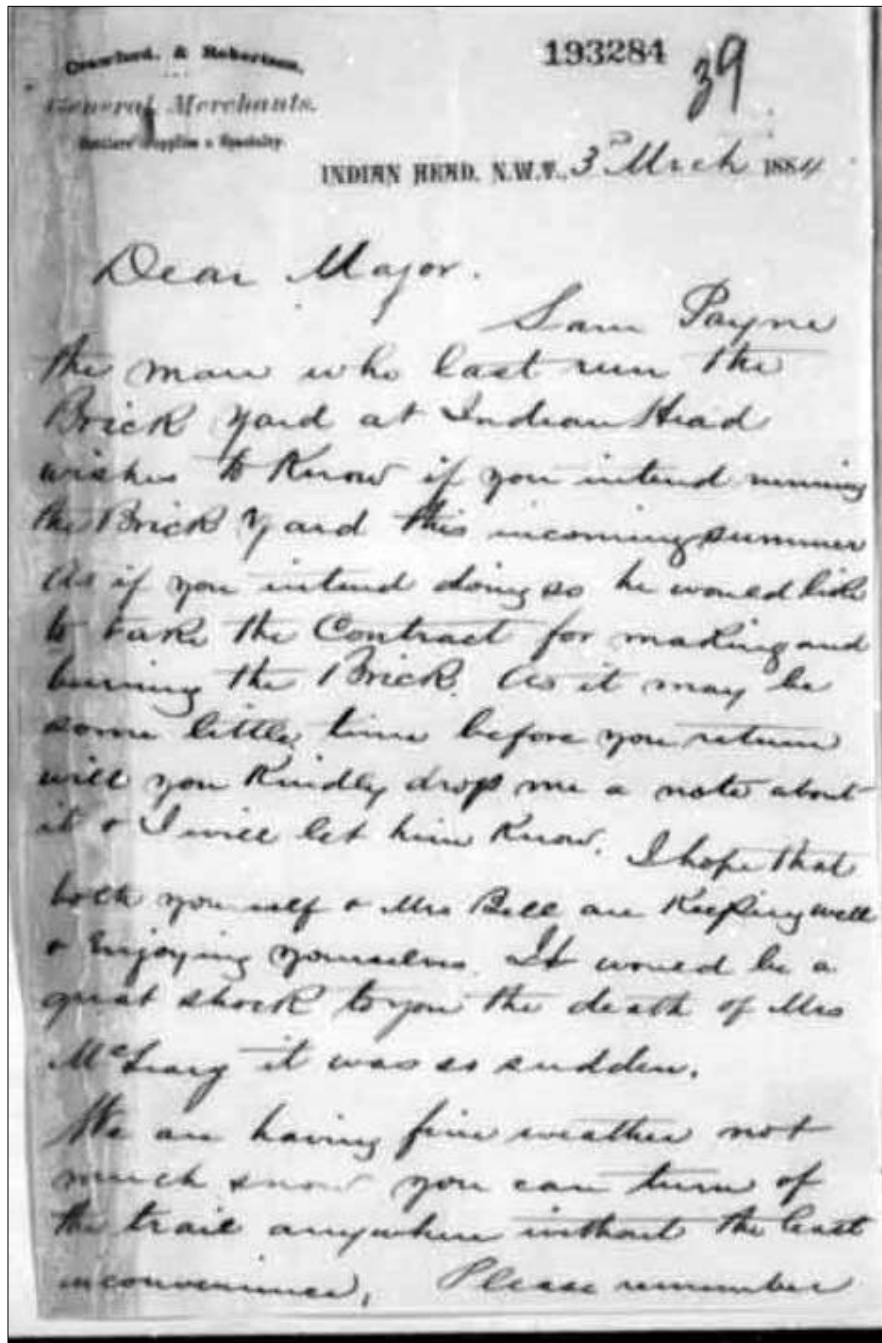
Indian Head,  
23rd March, 1883.

It is just twenty minutes of eight and supper for four and two to eat it is hardly over, dishes not washed and not liable to be for a day or two. My partner and I are both writing. The fire burns brightly by my side and the wind howls outside but we are happy and snug. I am busy thinking of my *frau* and little lads far away, and expect they are in the land of dreams and happy too. The weather has been quite mild all this week. Yesterday it was very warm indeed, to-day it has been windy but very soft. Did you ever see a mirage? I never did until yesterday, when I saw in the sky the country 40 miles north of here; it was a beautiful sight. I am told this kind of thing is very common here but never happened to take any notice of them before. A good many of the squatters who went north on a freighting expedition have returned. They do not like the country at all; they say that nearly all of it is very poor land and very rough. Sloughs and bluffs mostly. I was down town last Sunday the first time for two weeks and mailed a letter to you. I had dinner and tea with some of my old chums. They tell me that the squatters are bound to stick to their land and that most of those who went to Ontario during the winter are either on their way back or will be so very soon. We are writing to Mr. Watson, M.P. for Manitoba, who is at present in Ottawa

giving him our experience as well as sundry statements regarding Mr. Bell and the agents sent up here by the government. Mr. Watson is trying to find out all about the Bell Co. and their relation to the government, and we write him so that he can be thoroughly posted. . . . You must not believe all you see in the papers or hear, good or bad about this country. A good many people have suffered from the cold this winter I do not doubt, but I have not heard of any woman and 3 children freezing to death. Most but not all of the houses here are made one story high so that the wind does not have very much effect on them. You think you would be afraid of Indians, do you? They are the most harmless of the populations in this country. . . . There is plenty of water at the city—the C.P.R. dug a well 53 feet deep and have 18 feet of water. The water is very hard, even snow water is hardly soft. . . . My partner and I were figuring up to-night how much our board cost us each for a week for the last 3 weeks. It comes to \$1.96. Not very much that for a country where oatmeal and cornmeal are 8 cts a lb—rice 10c, sugar 15c, ham or bacon 25, fresh pork by the quarter 15c, beef 15c, etc. If we had a cow and a place to keep her, we could live well and cheaply. Of course we have a lot of stuff on hand but all good and necessary. I am getting along very well as far as I can judge and like the work well. I have been helping at barn building lately and am now boss on a small one and have one man under my eye besides myself. Would you like to live in Chicago with your boys? Immigrants are arriving here daily. The Bell Farming Co. have imported a blooming lot of English Cockneys. Ah! the blawsted country ye know. . . .

1883 – Bell ran a brick yard in 1883:

On March 3, 1884 Robert Crawford wrote to Major Bell stating that Sam Payne, who made bricks for Bell previously (presumably in 1883), wants to do so again in 1884.



66 kb

1883 – March 28 – *Manitoba Free Press* - 45 horses being shipped from Ottawa to Bell Farm by veterinarian James Harris

“Dr. James Harris, V.S. of Ottawa, and who spent last winter in this city, will arrive to-day with forty-five splendid horses for the Qu’Appelle Valley farm. High prices were paid for the animals.”

1883 – March 31 – *Manitoba Free Press* - 80 horses being shipped to Bell Farm – appears to be an update in number from March 28<sup>th</sup> report:

“The eighty horses which were brought up the other day from the Ottawa Valley by James Harris, V.S., for the Qu’Appelle Valley Farming Company, were yesterday shipped west to their destination. The horses are all splendid looking animals and are in excellent condition.”

1883 – April 1 – Autumn – Annual report for Dept of the Interior, 1883 – Part 1, p. 11, Letter from J. McD. Gordon, Dec. 22, 1883, Regina

**THE BELL FARM.**

DOMINION LANDS OFFICE,  
REGINA, 22nd December, 1883.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit the following report of the operations, and their results, of the Qu’Appelle Valley Farming Company, on the tract allotted to them under authority of the Order in Council dated the 3rd April, 1882.

The selection of the land was completed early in the spring of 1882, but no action was taken by the Company towards preparing the soil for cultivation until the 17th June. From this date breaking was continuously carried on during the summer and autumn. On the 6th November, when the frost prevented further work of this nature, 2,400 acres were ready for harrowing. This breaking was done by contract, as the prompt action necessary on the part of the Company to comply with the conditions of their grant did not admit of procuring sufficient stock and material of their own with which to undertake the first season’s work.

In the summer of 1882, dwellings, stables, storehouses and sheds requisite for the accommodation of labourers, stock and implements were erected and, so far as practicable, every arrangement that would facilitate the early commencement of work in the spring was perfected.

On the 1st of April, 1883, a number of labourers and their families, seventy-three horses, and several car loads of implements and machinery arrived at the farm, and on the 9th of the same month, almost before the snow had disappeared, harrowing the sod began. On the 14th April seeding was started. The seed was put into perfectly wet ground, in some places so wet that small pools had formed. In dry seasons, such as the past one, the advantage of seeding while the earth is in a saturated condition is apparent in the more advanced state of growth of the crop so planted than of that planted at a later period. Six days after seeding the wheat appeared above ground, but owing to a long spell of dry weather, made very little headway before the middle of June. About this time the first and only rain shower of any account fell, and brought the grain well up. The rain was followed by a continual period of cold dry weather, which delayed harvest several weeks beyond the usual time, and it was not until the 27th of August that grain cutting commenced.

In threshing, the grain is carried, by means of an elevator attachment on the thresher, from the spout of the machine to portable granaries placed in the centre of each field after harvest, and is there stored until fall ploughing is finished, when the granaries are drawn to the storehouse. By this system, an estimated saving of five cents per bushel in handling and carting the crop is effected.

Of the area cropped during the past season, 1,100 acres were in wheat, 1,000 acres in oats, and 200 acres in potatoes, roots, &c.

11

249 kb

Twenty three thousand and twenty bushels of wheat were grown. Of this 21,720 bushels were of the finest quality, and average about two pounds per bushel above the standard weight. The balance, 1,300 bushels, was slightly frost bitten, though not materially injured for milling purposes. The seed from which this was raised was sown on 1st May, too late to obtain a wet start, and to this cause is attributed the damage from frost. The cost of production is placed at 42 cents per bushel.

The oat crop was of good quality, but, owing to late sowing and the dry season, the return per acre was poor. The yield was 18,000 bushels.

The roots and potatoes were very fine.

The force at work, when I visited the farm in the month of June, consisted of 82 men and 100 horses. This force was chiefly engaged in breaking up new land, and between fifty and sixty acres were daily broken. Twenty-seven cottages had been erected on various parts of the tract. Of these twenty-two were occupied by married labourers and their families. Tenants for the remaining five, which were not quite finished, were prepared to take possession as soon as the cottages were ready for occupation. Many of these labourers I found to be old country people, principally English.

The buildings now on the tract number 106. 7,000 acres have been broken ready for cultivation in the spring. Tree planting has also, to some extent, been done. The trees appear to be doing well.

Before closing this report, it may be well to give a short summary of the system on which the farm work has been carried out.

The sections are divided into three equal portions of 213 acres. On each of these divisions a cottage, stable and granary are erected, and a farmer placed in charge thereof. The following outfit, allotted to each farmer, consists of three horses, a sulky, plough, wagon, and self-binder.

This force is not sufficient to cultivate the whole 213 acres every year, yet any addition to it would unduly increase the cost of production. To obtain the best results from the land, it has been found necessary to divide every farm into three parts, two-thirds of which are cropped each year, and one-third is summer fallowed. By this method the whole is given a rest every three years, and the danger of working out the soil is obviated. An immediate benefit arises from thoroughly cultivating a portion of the land, inasmuch as the yield is larger than were the whole farm to be indifferently tilled.

Seeding over, the farmer proceeds to prepare for next season that portion of his farm not in crop. When this is finished, the grain is ready for harvesting. In harvest time, two labourers for each farmer are added to the working force, for the purpose of shocking up the grain, as it is cut by the self-binder. This operation takes about ten days. The extra hands are then transferred to a threshing machine gang. One machine does the work for every four farms, the working forces of which are combined to assist in the threshing of their respective crops. His grain threshed and stored in his granary, the farmer sets about preparing for spring seeding one-half of the area from which he has raised crop. This, with the portion ploughed between seed-time and harvest, makes up the quantity required for the ensuing season's operations.

I have the honour to be, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

J. McD. GORDON,  
*Agent, Dominion Lands.*

The Deputy of The Minister of the Interior.  
Ottawa.

1883 – April 19 – *Regina Leader*, p. 4 – Bell Farm court case

“LOCAL: Thursday, April 19, 1883: : In the court on Tuesday, while the Bell Farm case was going on, with difficulty were the people kept quiet. Every opportunity for displaying their sympathies was sought to be availed of.”

**Also:**

“Donaldson vs Qu’Appelle Farm Company – decisions reserved for one month – may be the same case as noted above.

“Donaldson vs. The Qu’Appelle Farm Co. – Mr. Benson for plaintiff; Mr. Eberts, of Winnipeg, for debts.

This was a case in which the ownership of a number of logs was in question. A deal of evidence was gone into, and authorities cited. The decision reserved for one month.”

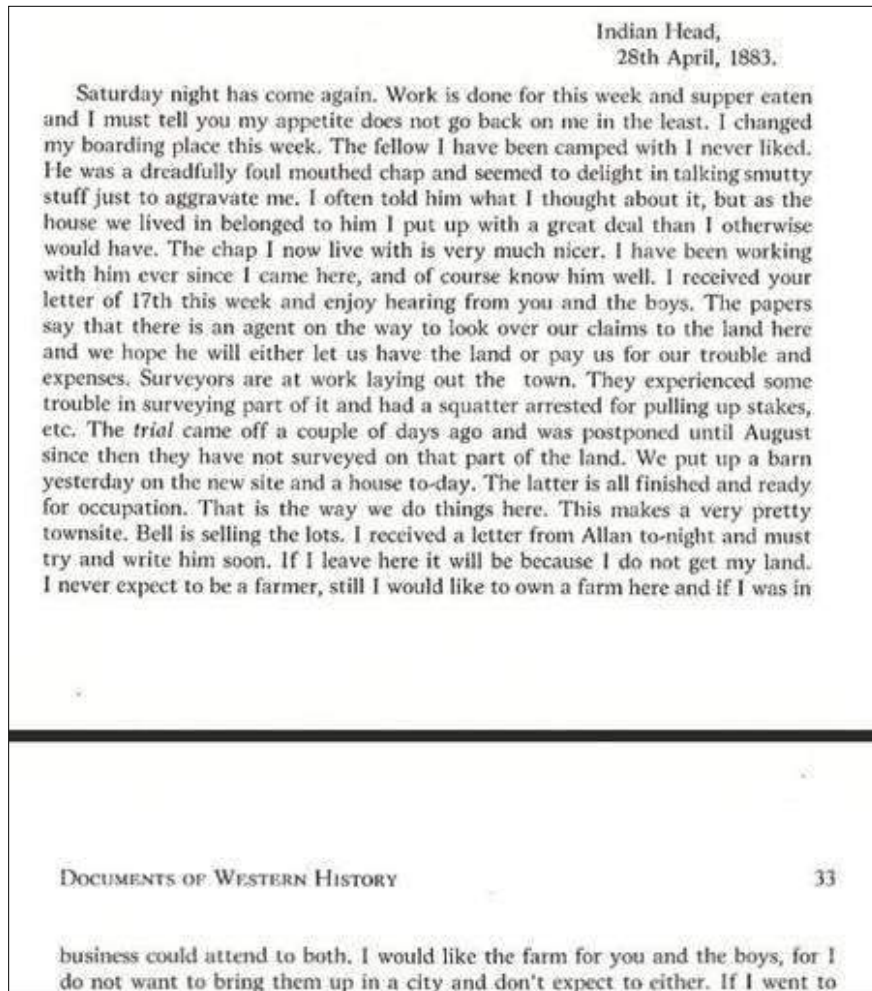
1883 – April 26 – *Regina Leader*, p. 4 – Major Bell in Regina

Local: “Major Bell, of the Bell Farm, who is stopping at the Royal, went east last night. Major Bell is delighted with the soil around Regina. He says there is no sod to rot – all you have to do is to plough and sow. *Thus every settler here as compared to Manitoba saves one year.*”

Personal: “Mr. Bell, of the Bell Farm, visited the city and the surroundings. He says the prairie around Regina is the finest he ever saw. He believes there is a great future before Regina.”



1883 – April 28 – Updates from E.J. Brooks on his daily routine and carpentry work on the Bell Farm



1883 – 8 May – Senate Debates: *Great Canadian North-West*, p. 6 – Hon. J.B. Plumb — Seeding starts April 10

“... There is nothing more remarkable than the regularity of the rain-falls in the months of June and July, which are the growing months in those latitudes, and the dry season which takes place at the time of the harvest. The seed is sown and harrowed-in in April, as soon as it can be covered, and before the frost is out of the ground. Seeding at the great Bell Farm at Qu’Appelle was begun at the 10<sup>th</sup> of April this year. \* . . . It begins to germinate in the warm soil on the surface, and, as the ice thaws beneath, it creates a moisture that promotes vegetation.”

\*Note: on this farm, 2,700 acres have been sown to wheat since that day. The blades were 6 inches high on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May and promised a heavy yield.”

(Source for the above facts: unidentified; no indication that Member of Parliament Plumb ever visited the Bell Farm)

1883 – May 15 – Letter - Dewdney informs Sir John A. Macdonald of his role in the Bell Farm.

“Some remarks might be made in reference to myself as to Speculation, in which event I wish to tell you that outside of a small interest in the 28 sections of H. B. Co. lands bought from the company over a year ago, three H.B. Co. Town Lots in Winnipeg, a few Town Lots (H. B. Co.) Prince Albert, and 100 Shares (twenty-five of which I have given away) in the Bell Farming Co. (Qu’Appelle Valley Farming Co.) I have no land interest whatever.”

“I have no connection with any Colonization Co., Grazing Co., neither have I attempted by any means to secure an acre of Govt. land. At the last meeting of the Qu’Appelle Valley Farming Co. I was appointed President & I feel proud of being at the Head of an enterprise that I think is going to do an immense deal of good to the Country. I bought the shares after the Company had been formed & paid the market rate.”

(Source: Memorandum from A.E. Mann, Dept of Mines & Resources, to Mr. Turner, 21 April 1938)

1883 – May 21 – Brooks comments on Bell Farm activities and the squatters’ situation

Indian Head, Assa.  
21st May, 1883.

I did not write to you last week but will write early this week to make up for it. Neither did I receive my usual letter from you but recd. both packages of papers all right and am much obliged for them. We had some little excitement here last week when Bell tried to prevent Daley (who owns half of the town) from plowing. Mr. Bell did not succeed however. I have never been so disgusted with anything as I have been of late with the Ottawa Government. Our squatters rights are hardly to be compared with some poor fellows who settled last year, early, south of the R.R. but south of the track, that is outside of 24 miles south of the track—last week the govt. sold at Winnipeg all even numbered sections there to the highest bidder; it did not matter to them whether the settler had any improvements or how much, he was obliged to buy the land, or else lose it, and in many cases in order to buy had to travel from 50 to 100 miles by team and then ride in the cars for perhaps a couple of hundred miles. It is no wonder so many settlers are leaving here and going to the States. It makes a fellow’s blood fairly boil with rage to know of the treatment squatters are subject to in this country by a rotten Dominion Govt. Conservatives here are just as bitter as they can be, and denounce their actions in more forcible than polite language.

1883 – May 21 – Brooks reports that the Bell Farm is digging a well in town and building a Hotel

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SASKATCHEWAN HISTORY

much. The youngest of their two boys is with me a good deal. He is a dear little fellow and I enjoy having him around. The Bell farm are boring a well on the townsite and intend putting up a hotel near by. So far they are down 145 feet and no water . . . Bread and milk isn’t bad, but I don’t fancy rice. I use a great

1883 – May 26 – *NWT Gazette* – James Harvey and Major Bell appointed Justice of the Peace

1883 – May 29 – *NWT Gazette* – Thomas Routledge, Bell Farm manager - appointed Notary Public

1883 – May 29 – Brooks reports Bell Farm carpentry work has ended; and refers to Hotel – perhaps Bell’s hotel.

Indian Head,  
29th May, 1883.

Your very kind and welcome letter of the 21st inst. arrived this morning. When I wrote you last week I did not tell you that I was no longer working at the carpenter business. My boss was all out of lumber and nearly all the hands were off for several days. I had a pretty easy time of it most of this week but managed to earn six dollars. I hardly knew what to do. Still I did not feel discouraged at all. I intended disposing of my few little traps on Monday of this week and going East, but a good and kind providence ordered that it should be otherwise for the present at least. Mr. Crawford who keeps store here sent word to me Sunday night that he wanted me to help him Monday morning. Monday night he told me he wanted me to remain with them and here I am still and at my old trade and it really seems good to be behind the counter again. Neither Mr. C. or Mr. Robertson his partner know very much about business although the former was with the Hudson Bay Co. for 25 years. He is a very jolly old coon and I can tell you not much like my former boss Mr. Walsh. I did not make any bargain with him about salary but I told Mr. Osment, my carpenter boss, how much I wanted and asked him to speak to Mr. C. for me, which he did. I told him I would work for \$50 a month and my board. I board at the Hotel and enjoy my meals rather better than when I cooked them myself. I cannot tell if he will want me for a short or long time. The young man that has been with him for some time goes west to-night and accompanies Govr. Dewdney to the Rockies, Edmonton, and all the principal points North, and will be away until Sept. . . .

1883 – 1 June – *NWT Gazette* – Thomas Routledge, Bell Farm manager, appointed Issuer of Marriage Licences

1883 – 3 June – References to the hotel; and Major Bell promises two town lots for Presbyterian Church – E.J. Brooks letter

some of doing this. I am willing as long as it will pay me to do so. Mosquitoes are not very bad yet, but no doubt will be so soon. I went into the hotel last night where they were having a stag dance, and it was comical enough to see all men dancing in their every-day working clothes. They were having a good time anyway. There are lots of women here now. I often have my meals quite late, and the hotel girls eat with me. I enjoy it tip-top. I wrote to Pa a couple of days ago and I hope he will go to Chicago. The Presbyterian Minister here has raised \$550 and has the promise of two lots of land from Mr. Bell. He will probably get about a thousand dollars and then build a church. The Presbyterians have a great many young men preaching in this country and all I think have good congregations . . . .

1883 – June 3 – Letter from Lieut. Gov. Edgar Dewdney to Sir John A. Macdonald re brickmaking

“... brick is bring made at Indian Head and yards are expected to be started here [*Regina*] shortly.”

(Source: PAS: Collection R70.)

1883 – June 7 – *Regina Leader* – p. 1 - Well Dug on Bell Farm . . . and a hotel started

“**INDIAN HEAD** - *(from our own Correspondent)* Indian Head, June 5 – Indian Head is looking up. There is a lot of fine building going on and a fine large hotel started. A well has been sunk on the Bell farm. It is over 200 feet deep, and was dug by means of the steam process. They have found plenty of water – first class water. Stretching along the line there are furrows two miles long. You can have no idea how nice fifteen plows look going through the long furrows with three horses attached to each plow.”

1883 – June 14 – *Helena Weekly Herald* – Lord Dunmore report after trip to Bell Farm

“Lord Dunsmore, recently returned from the end of the track on the Canadian Pacific, gives a glowing account of the progress of the road and of the country through which it is building. . . . The most remarkable part of the story is the rapidity of the work. He says the whole road has been laid at an average of four miles per day, and the manager offers to wager that he can lay ten miles in ten consecutive hours. He says that the entire country from Winnipeg to Regina – the new capital of the British Northwest Territory – is just as good wheat land as any in Minnesota or Dakota. This is the country where the British expect to win their independence of the United States for their daily bread. The Bell farm at Indian head is alleged to surpass the celebrated Dalrymple farm in the Red River valley.”

1883 – June 16 – *The Railway Times*, Vol. 46, p. 615 – report on Lord Dunmore’s trip

“Lord Dunmore has been making a tour of inspection in the Canadian North West in company with the manager of the Canadian Pacific Railway.”

1883 – June 21 – *Regina Leader* – Indian Head - Testing the Fowler Steam Plow on Sykes Farm and comments on Bell Farm



Fowler Steam Plow, possibly c.1900 210 kb

(Source: <https://www.gracesguide.co.uk/File:Im20110717Weet-FowletPl.jpg>)

**INDIAN HEAD.**

**Trial of the Fowler Steam Plow.**

**The Bell Farm.**

(From our own Correspondent.)

INDIAN HEAD, JUNE 19.—On Saturday last on the invitation of Mr. Sykes, of the Sykes & Hughes farm, situated near Qu'Appelle station, a number of ladies and gentlemen assembled to witness a trial of the Fowler Steam Plow imported by this firm from England. Among those present were Major and Mrs. Bell; Mr. Routledge, superintendent of the Bell Farm; Mr. Gordon, Dominion Land Agent, Regina; Mr. Macdonald, Chief Factor H. B. Co., and Mrs. Macdonald.

Mr. Macdougall, Mrs. Storer Brown, and Dr. Edwards, of Fort Qu'Appelle. The working of the plow was superintended by Mr. Cameron, the manager of the farm, and was pronounced by every one a grand success. Four plows were worked cutting each a sod of 17 inches wide by 4 inches deep. The length of the furrows was half a mile. The plows are set in a heavy iron frame and are five in number. Each frame has two sets of plows thus enabling it to be worked in opposite directions without turning. The set of plows not in use is carried in the air and when the end of a furrow is reached those in use are hoisted out of the ground and the other set lowered. The plow is then in a position to resume its journey in a backward direction. The frame is mounted upon two large wheels placed about the centre, and is steered by a man placed on the plow frame. The plows are drawn by means of a wire cable attached to engines on either side of a field which work alternately, and draw the plows to their respective sides of the field. The capacity

Part 1 117 kb

Part 2 131 kb

of the plow is from 30 to 35 acres daily. Mr. Sykes was present during the day and entertained his guests at luncheon and tea, after which all returned home highly delighted with the day's proceedings. It is not generally known that the biggest farm in the world lies in this Province. The Bell Farm is situated on the line of the C. P. R. about 40 miles east of Regina and extends for 9 miles along the railway and covers a tract of land 10 miles square, in all 64,000 acres. The Company took possession of this large tract of prairie last season and immediately proceeded with work and although their efforts were very much retarded owing to the uncertainty of title to some portions of the tract there are now under crop 3,500 acres, and 70 buildings, consisting of dwellings, stables, graneries, and implement sheds. About the centre of the farm and one mile from Indian Head station are placed the main buildings. These embrace the dwellings of the manager and 60 men, a stable for 40 horses, granery, implement sheds, black

smith and carriage shops. The staff stationed here are principally used in cultivating the fields contiguous to the main buildings. The more distant parts of the farm are supplied with very comfortable cottages which are occupied by the married employes and their families who cultivate a quantity of land adjacent to their respective cottages. There are some twenty-seven of these cottages already occupied and with their gardens—an acre is set aside for this purpose at each cottage—give the country quite a settled appearance. One of the many pleasing sights to be seen on this monster farm is the plowing. The furrows run for two miles and a half from the main avenue. Engaged in this work there are 9 gang plows, each drawn by 6 horses. In addition to these there are 15 sulkies worked by the cottage residents. The breaking done by these plows averages between 50 and 60 acres daily. The force at present employed consists of 82 men and 100 horses. The town of Indian Head presents a lively appearance. Build-

Part 3 133 kb

Part 4 128 kb

ings are going up in all directions. Among these may be mentioned a large store 20x30 feet, a large hotel, and buildings for the staff of the Indian Department, now located at Fort Qu'Appelle. Mr. Osmond's new building, 20x60 feet, is one of the finest hardware and furniture stores west of Brandon, and here the settler can obtain anything in this line he may require.

Part 5 63 kb

The *Leader* of 21 June 1883 carried an article regarding the testing of a Fowler steam plow on the Bell farm at Indian Head. The plow itself consists of a frame with two wheels on which the reversible moldboards were mounted. It cut 17-inch wide furrows up to 4 inches deep. The system consists of the plow and two steam engines, one situated on each side of the area to be plowed. The plow was pulled back and forth across the area by means of cables attached to winches mounted under each of the engines. A detailed description of the engines and their operation was provided in *Sykes*, page 13. This account would suggest that the demonstration was actually not on the Bell farm.

The Fowler steam plow system, manufactured in England, was widely used for plowing on large estates there. Many examples have been restored for demonstrations at farm machinery rallies there but this is the only reference to their use in Canada which has been located. It would

(Source: John Sled: "Lumsden: A Snapshot of a Prairie Community, 1901", 2020, Appendix E, p. 8)

1883 – June \_\_\_ - William Pearce, Inspector of Dominion Lands, visits Bell Farm to discuss matter of squatters.

Letter from Pearce to A. Walsh, Commissioner of Dominion Lands, dated 31 Oct. 1883, Winnipeg – Annual report for Dept of the Interior, 1883 – "Part 1, Page 3:

"In June, Indian Head was visited in connection with the case of the squatters on the Bell Farm."

1883 – no date – E-mail from Michelle Cabana about Fowler and other farm equipment:

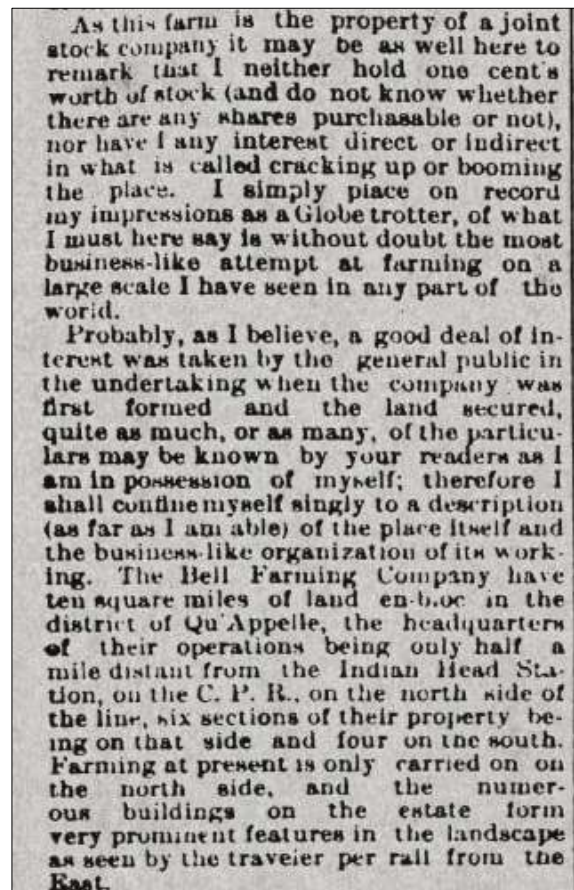
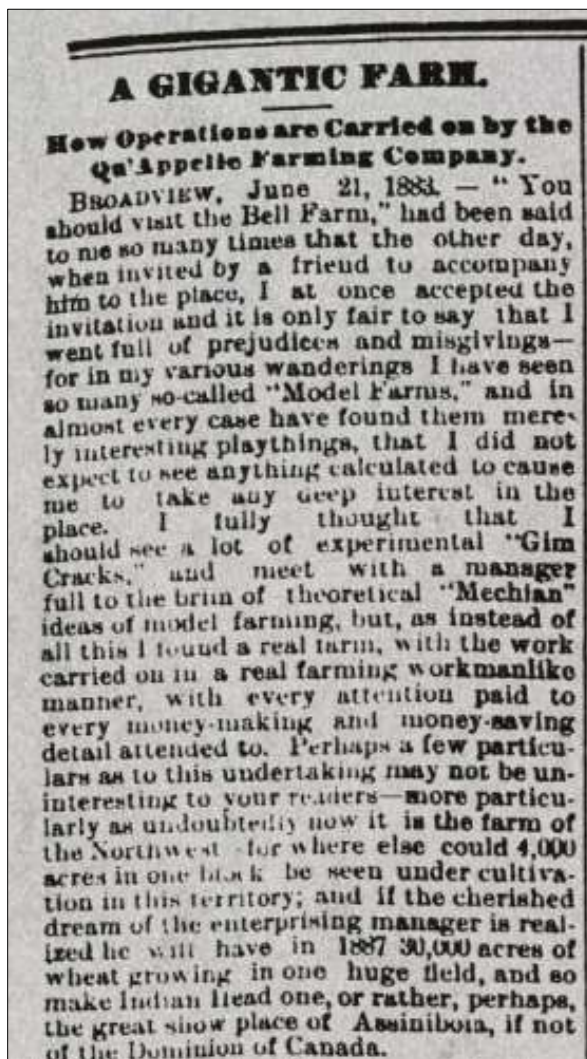
**From:** michelle cabana, Saskatoon

**Sent:** September-10-12 11:55 PM **Subject:** Re: Farm Equipment

Hi Frank

I'll send anything along that I see in regards to farm equipment. I did read that David Greig of John Fowler and Co. (Leeds) visited the farm in 1883 but didn't convince the Major to buy any of his steam ploughs. The Sykes farm did. And that same year Major Bell felt the Americans made the best farm equipment (Deering of Chicago) but put in an order for Canadian made binders by 1884 when the prices became more competitive. I'll keep an eye out for more detailed information. Michelle

1883 – June 25 – *Winnipeg Free Press*: A Gigantic Farm – the Rambler was Richard Waugh (1832-1908)



Part 1 (164kb)

Part 2 (199 kb)

The head station, or manager's home, the residence of Major Bell, is approached from the railway depot through an avenue of young poplar trees, which were brought some distance from the Qu'Appelle Bluffs last fall, and have done extremely well, all having a very healthy appearance—a very interesting experiment in foresting by the way—this avenue is altogether two miles in length, and the trees are planted something like twelve feet apart. The house itself is a very substantial structure of stone—stones too in the rough, just as gathered off the land in the neighborhood, and although the house is roomy, commodious and comfortable in every respect, yet it is utterly devoid of any ornamentation; it is, in fact a plain respectable looking farm house of a severely simple style of architecture, with a lawn in front and kitchen garden behind.

Now for farm particulars: 2,800 acres were broken last fall by contract, and the rest very early this year with the company's own teams. Seeding was done at the rate of 400 acres per day and commenced on the ninth of April. There are now 4,600 acres under crop all at present looking extremely well. 1,700 acres are in wheat, 10 in potatoes, and the remainder oats barley and beans. The manager fully expects to have under crop next year from 6,000 to 7,000 acres, and breaking is now going on at the rate of 100 acres daily. The working plant on the farm at present consists of 36 waggon, 8 hand ploughs, 33 sulks, 22 double gang ploughs, 115 horses, besides harrows, etc., etc. No backsetting has been done on the farm, as Major Bell's experience in Minnesota has told him that good harrowing is enough for the character of land worked. At present there are employed on the farm 93 men—73 being labourers, and 20 mechanics carpenters, blacksmiths, etc.

The land actually under cultivation is divided into 40 small farms, and upon each has been erected a house, barn and stable, and the man resident on this farm is responsible for the good condition of his horses, and he is visited twice a day either by the manager or his assistant. These farm managers, who for the most are married men, have not only good substantial houses provided for them, but receive fuel, and have besides 35 dollars a month wages, which wages are paid punctually on the 20th of each month in cash (no "Tommy shop" or farm store on the place) and have further one acre of ground for gardening purposes allowed them each.

The manager, not to be too sanguine, estimates his yield of wheat in August will be, at the lowest, say 20 bushels to the acre, and is satisfied that the raising will not cost more than 40 cents per bushel, and the whole system upon which the place is worked, and the clear, simple and concise plan on which the books are kept, together with the scrupulous attention to details in every particular of management, would seem to make any miscalculation almost impossible. Nothing about this place is theoretical but very severely practical.

Part 3

(178 kb)

Part 4 (237 kb)



The Bell Farming Company have besides the brilliant prospects of a bountiful crop for their first year's reward for their enterprise, a certainty of rich dividends from their sales of town lots in Indian Head. They have had this property surveyed and divided, and these lots are being hungrily and eagerly bought up at prices from \$100 to \$250 each, and Indian Head is likely to be one of the most flourishing towns on the whole line between Winnipeg and Regina, as besides the population on the Bell Farm—no mean item in the purchasing community—Indian Head is a distributing railway centre for an immense district of some of the richest land in the whole Dominion, and there is not a vacant section within twenty miles. Indian Head is bound to go ahead.

I should have said that the granaries and stables on the farm are the most complete buildings of the kind I have seen in America, while the latter, which is circular in shape and economizes space in the most wonderful manner, is quite worth while in itself any one traveling from Winnipeg to see.

Congratulating in my mind, but inwardly envying the good fortune of the stockholders in this company, and personally thanking the energetic and hospitable manager, Major Bell, and his able and courteous assistant, Mr. Routledge, for their attentions and information, after spending a most agreeable day I left the Bell Farm full of the heartiest good wishes and with full confidence in its success.

HAMBLER.

Part 5 (199 kb)

1883 – June 28 – Brooks mentions that Major Bell owns the Indian Head townsite

“I will remain here, as there is a first class opening here ere and I know I can do well. Bell has the townsite and some first class buildings are going up. . . .”

1883 – June – no exact date – William and Mary Thomson arrive from Scotland to work on Bell Farm

“William Thomson . . . came to Canada in the spring of 1883 . . . [and worked near Grenfell]. Mrs. [Mary Jane] Thomson with three children and her sister Agnes [Scott] arrived from Scotland in June of that year, and Mr. Thomson got work on the Bell farm at Indian Head, and took his family there, where they lived in one of the cottages built for the hired help. . . . Mary was born in Indian Head on May 5, 1885.” (Source: Laura Black, family history, p. 1. In an Interview with Helen Morrison, Jan. 7, 2020, Laura also mentioned that her grandmother - Mary Jane [Scott] Thomson - worked as a dairy maid on the Bell Farm.)

1883 – June 3 – Letter from Dewdney to Macdonald – brickmaking at Indian Head & Regina

“Brick is bring made at Indian Head & yards are expected to be started here shortly.”

1883 – July 5 – *Regina Leader*, p. 3 – Major Bell appointed Justice of the Peace

1883 – July 5 – *Regina Leader*, p. 4– “Indian Head” – Dominion Day and Brick Yard operation details

Article mentions the following people who were entertained by Major and Katherine Bell – to be added to the Bell Farm Visitors list:

- Rev. Mr. Cooper
- Mr. Perley, Wolseley
- Mrs. Macdonald, Fort Qu’Appelle
- Mrs. Brown, Fort Qu’Appelle
- Dr. Dodd, Broadview

**INDIAN HEAD.**  
(From Our Own Correspondent.)

INDIAN HEAD, July 3. — Posters printed unpatriotically in Winnipeg, instead of having been printed in our own Province, told the world of Assinibolia that a grand celebration of Dominion day would take place at Indian Head, on Monday, July 2nd, when prizes, ranging from \$80 downwards would be given. Special arrangements had been made with the C. P. R. to and from all stations at a fare and a third, and in addition to the sports those who arrived early would have an opportunity of viewing the Bell Farm and see the largest field of wheat in the Territories.

Indian Head surprised me. I expected to see a few tents. It is a growing town with fine substantial buildings. A very large hotel is in course of erection larger than any west of Brandon at present. The present hotel—the Commercial—is an excellent hostelry, a credit to the place. There is excellent clay for brick near and a large brick yard is in full blast whose owners have already sold 200,000 brick at \$20 a thousand. Colonel Macdonald is building here. The Bell Farm is simply a splendid thing for the country. If any injustice was done to the squatters it was by the Government, not by Major Bell, who, as the agent of a company to whom the Government had sold certain lands had only one course open to him. The Bell Farm Company have planted a row of poplars on each side of the road to Fort Qu’Appelle for a mile. These trees have “taken” and make a fine avenue. The house of Major Bell is a large stone building, substantial and well designed. Here a few friends were entertained at luncheon amongst whom were the Rev. Mr. Cooper, Mr. Perley, of Wolseley,

Mrs. Macdonald and Mrs. Brown, of Fort Qu’Appelle, Dr. Dodd, of Broadview, and your correspondent. Here, Mrs. Bell dispenses the hospitalities in a manner which makes good things better. While lunch was preparing we visited the stable, a round structure built of stone taken off the farm. Outside it looks like a round house. Inside it is a large, comfortable, airy stable, horses stalled for the most part facing outward against the circular wall; above, grain and hay, which are let down in a scientific manner. The garden, the corral, and above all, the 1200 acre field of wheat, did me good to see. Despite the dry weather this wheat looked well. Lunch over, we drove behind a pair of blood-splendid goers, an all day team—and were on the grounds in time for the

#### BASE BALL MATCH.

An immense crowd was now on the grounds, contingents having come from Regina, Fort Qu’Appelle, Broadview, Grenfell and Wolseley. Dr. Dodd was amongst those who came from Broadview, and better base ball playing he said he never saw. Mr. G. L. Dodds, Mr. Perley, Mr. Blanchard, and others, arrived from Wolseley, and Mr. Mann and his friends from Grenfell. Among those who came from Regina were Mr. Harman, of the Merchants’ Bank, Mr. McCaul, Mr. Bayne, Mr. Gordon, Col. Irvin, who had run down with Mr. Gordon from Qu’Appelle, Mr. J. H. Benson, Mr. and Mrs. Daniels. Carriages filled with elegantly dressed ladies were early on the ground. Tents for the sale of ginger beer and lemonade were erected east of the race track—a circular half mile, plowed by Major Bell, and unsodded by the citizens—and nearly facing the grand stand, which was inside the circle on its eastern etc. From these tents came the cry in

That peculiar ringing voice which ginger beer sellers affect, "Here is ginger beer. The best ginger beer! It is not only good for what ails you, but it is good for your blood! Here is the genuine article!" and so on. But the base ball match is waiting.

PICKED NINE OF WOLSELEY AND BROADVIEW  
VS. "ATHLETICS" OF INDIAN HEAD.

This resulted in a victory for the Indian Head "Athletics" by 20 to 2. Michael O'Brien is captain of the Indian Head club and H. A. Walenn, well known and well remembered in Regina as the gentleman who gave Reginans so much delight by his performances on the violin, is secretary.

HORSE RACING.

Open Trotting Race, 1 Mile.—A. Pugsley's Grey Eagle, 1st; S. White's Golddust Charlie, 2nd; J. Beach's Fanny B., 3rd.

Open Running Race, 1 Mile.—This race fell through, but the prizes were thrown open for ponies or anything else. Iliffe's LeBlou won owing to a foul by Warrior.

Pony Race, Half Mile.—J. Iliffe's Le Blue, 1st; McKay's Sam, 2nd; Valeo's Bay Billy, 3rd.

The running of LeBlou, which was trained by Woodhouse, better known as "Bunglow," was superb. She left every thing behind her, and won the sympathy of everyone. The Reginans were all proud of her.

GENERAL SPORTS.

Running Hop, Step and Jump.—Cathcart- 1st; Featherstone, 2nd, McKellar, 3rd.

Half Mile Dash.—Asham (an Indian), 1st; Fellows, 2nd; Laairess, 3rd.

Hurdle Race, 220 yards, 9 hurdles.—Fisher, 1st; Carson, 2nd; Fellows, 3rd.

Running Long Jump.—Fisher, 1st; Fellows, 2nd; Plaxton, 3rd.

100 yard Dash.—Fisher, 1st; Patterson, 2nd.

Squaw Race.—Mrs. Laairess, 1st.

Running High Jump.—Cathcart, 1st; Fellows, 2nd.

Quarter Mile Race.—Asham (an Indian), 1st; Fellows, 2nd; Spear, 3rd.

Indian Race, 1 Mile.—Asham, 1st.

Putting the Weight.—Galbraith, 1st; McQuaig, 2nd; Cameron, 3rd.

Standing Jump.—Fellows, 1st; Plaxton, 2nd.

Championship of Assiniboia, 1 Mile, open to all residents of the District, pure Indians excepted.—Hawkins, 1st; Carson, 2nd; Bondjiman, 3rd.

Tug of War, employees of the Bell Farm vs. Town Team.—The Bell Farm won. The second tug was very exciting because the citizens seemed likely to retrieve their laurels. Mr. Routledge captained the Bell Farm team in good style.

Part 3 of 4

Part 4 of 4

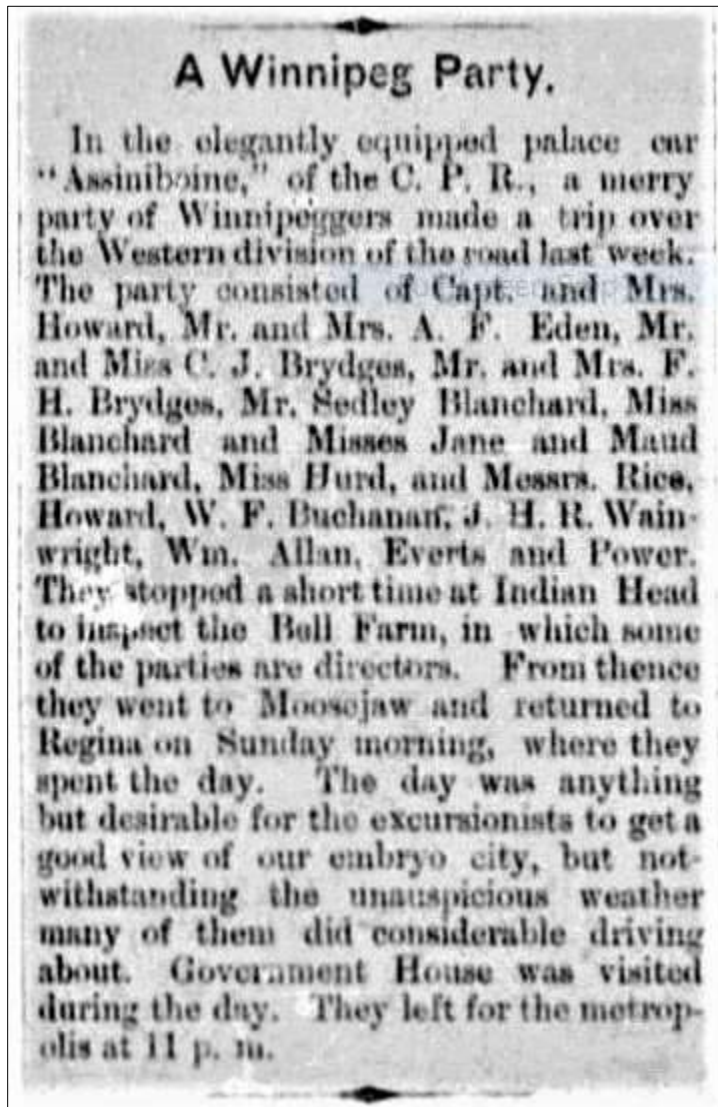
1883 – July 11 – Letter Dewdney to Macdonald – Bell vs Jackson election report

"... Jackson is running for N.W. Council - - Bell of the Bell Farm opposing him. It will be a tight contest & I fear the squatting element will be against Bell. I have written Sir Hector to ask him to write Archbishop Taché to support Bell. The Half Breed vote will be a very strong one."

1883 – July 12 – *Regina Leader*, p. 4 – Spaniels at the Bell Farm

"LOCAL: Major Bell has a fine kennel of spaniels."

1883 – July 19 – *Regina Leader*, p. 4 – Bell Farm visitors: “A Winnipeg Party”



110 kb

1883 – July 19 – *Manitoba Free Press* – p, \_\_\_\_ - Bell Farm – [check for details](#)

1883 – 21 July – “*Life and Labour in the Far, Far West*”, by W. Henry Barneby –

During their tour, the following group of men stopped off at the Bell Farm: W.H. Barneby, Mr. R. Jaffray (a director of the Midland of Canada Railway Company) and Mr. Mackenzie of Toronto; Mr. Davies (son-in-law to Mr. Cox, Pres of Midland of Canada Railway); Col. Arthur Trefusis Heneage Williams, M.P. for Port Hope and his son Victor; Mr. Bath; Arthur Mitchell, brother-in-law to Barneby. Includes some new comments about life at the Bell Farm, including reference to the men sleeping on the train, as Major Bell’s new hotel was then under construction; also accommodating 105 wagon-horses in a large stable (barn); poor water at the Bell Farm; and being served breakfast by Mrs. Bell.

## CHAPTER XI.

## THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORY.

*Agriculture between Winnipeg and Margate—Scott Settlers—Portage la Prairie—Bandon—Virden—A Visit from the Police—The One-mile Bell—Tree Planting—A Prairie Sunset—Moon-rise on the Prairie—Indian Head—A Drive to Fort Qu'Appelle—A Field of Twelve Hundred Acres—Farming in Minnesota and in the North-West compared—A Settler's Story.*

We left Winnipeg by the 7.30 a.m. train on the following morning, July 20th, in the Midland of Canada railway official car, *via* Canadian Pacific Railway, on our expedition to the North-West Territory; our party consisting of Mr. Jaffray, and Mr. McKenzie, of Toronto; Mr. Davies; Colonel Williams, M.P., and his son Victor; Mr. Bath; Mitchell, and self. Three other gentlemen had arrived from Toronto to join the party, but one was taken ill and could not move, so the other two stayed with him; and I believe intend, if possible, to join us later, up the track. We were told that two of them were influential bankers. Of course there was a notice in the newspapers of their arrival at Winnipeg. On leaving the town the railway track struck out at once over the open prairie, and we were surprised to find that for twenty-five miles there were no signs of corn cultivation, which seems a sad

## THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORY. 29

ocean sunset—which, to those who have seen one, will be enough to convey what a beautiful sight it is; but, glorious as it was, our admiration was subsequently quite as much excited by the moon-rise.

We arrived at Indian Head about 11.30 p.m., and shortly afterwards all retired for the night, making use of the Midland of Canada railway car as our sleeping quarters. Mr. Jaffray insisted on giving up the "state bed-room" to Mitchell and myself. It was a little room used as a sleeping-room on the car, and was really very comfortable indeed. The other members of our party slept in the car itself, beds being made up there by Marsh (the attendant), on sofas and chairs. It was a great luxury having the car; for, as far as we could learn, there was no suitable sleeping accommodation to be had at Indian Head, though an hotel is now being built there by the Bell Farm Company.

We were not very warm when we woke the next morning, for we had had one large window open all night, and discovered that the ventilators had been open as well; and the weather really was quite cold. However, thanks to my coat and rug, I had managed to keep pretty snug. We were soon on the move, for Major Bell, of Bell Farm (about one and a half miles off), had come to invite us all to breakfast; and it was settled that we should afterwards drive straight on to Fort Qu'Appelle, twenty miles farther, and remain

there a night. We set off accordingly in two vehicles, and before breakfast went round the farm-buildings, &c. This land belongs to a Company, and Major Bell is the manager. They took up 56,000 acres of open prairie, and commenced operations only a year ago. Major Bell has already a good dwelling-house and out-buildings erected, an avenue of trees planted, and a large stock of implements ready to hand. It is his intention to break up 7,000 acres during the present year. We saw a field of 1,200 acres, two miles long, being ploughed, the team having to traverse that distance before turning. Two trips are made in the morning and two in the evening (feeding-time coming between), so that the horses have to make good time in order to reach the feeding-trough at the proper hour. They plough seventy acres a day, using no steam power, only horses, of which Major Bell must keep a great many, for we saw a stable for waggon-horses built to hold no less than 105; and the loft was large enough to contain 100 tons of hay. The stable was round, and substantially built of stone. We noticed one 1,200-acre field of wheat. We were told again here that harvest would commence towards the end of August.

Major Bell had farmed at one time in Minnesota, but said he preferred the North-West. In drawing a comparison between the land here and that in the Red

River Valley, he said that the latter was the best in Canada, and the soil there much deeper and newer than here, and capable of being worked for a long time without manure; but the crops there were about three weeks behind those in this part of the North-West (312 miles west of Winnipeg), though here the soil was much older and harder, and could only be worked for a limited time without artificial assistance. As far as I could judge, I preferred the Red River soil to this; and besides, later in the day, I was given to understand that there is a great difficulty in obtaining a good supply of water at Bell Farm, and that in point of fact a well has been sunk to a great depth there without any successful result.

At the time of our visit Mrs. Bell did the honours of a very good breakfast of eggs and bread-and-butter, after which we set off in two waggons (one drawn by mules, the other by horses), for Fort Qu'Appelle; our route being over the open prairie, and for the first five or six miles perfectly flat, then gradually more undulating, until eventually we came to a much more thickly-wooded country, partly covered with brushwood about twelve feet high. I should think it ought to be a capital district for duck and prairie fowl, for there seemed to be a great many small ponds about, and ducks were to be seen on almost all of them.

We stopped to speak to a settler who had come into

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1883 – July 26 – *Regina Leader*, p. 2 – a long anecdote about Dewdney, Bell and Alcohol

**THE GLOBE AND GOVERNOR  
DEWDNEY.**

The "own" correspondent of the Toronto Globe in Winnipeg writes to that journal a letter in which he states first that unless he is grossly misinformed, the usefulness of the mounted Police is being neutralized by the "extraordinary conduct" of Mr. Dewdney, secondly, that the way this interference takes place is by the issue of unlimited permits. Then he gives "a case in point."

Not long ago a constable of the Mounted Police, but dressed in plain clothes, boarded the western-bound train as it was nearing the western border of Manitoba, and took his seat in the sleeping car. He had not been there long before he heard several young fellows talking about the liquors they had concealed under the different seats of the car. The conversation became general, and it appeared that nearly every young man in the car had more or less liquor stowed away under the seats, and that all this liquor was destined to be smuggled into the North-West Territory in strict contravention of the law. In the meantime these young gentlemen became aware of the presence of the constable, and they were in trouble. In their trouble they appealed to a gentleman who is known as a friend of the Governor of the Territory, and this friend told the boys he would see them all through safe and sound. Presently the boundary was reached, and the constable, standing up, announced his business, adding that it would be his duty to search the car.

"I'll save you that trouble," said Mr. Dewdney, a friend, rising in his seat, "all the liquor in this car belongs to me, and here's a permit that'll cover it all whatever the amount may be."

The "boys" had a good laugh at the now humiliated officer, who, after one glance at the permit saw that its possessor could pass a train load of liquor as easily as a car load. In addition to all this, I have been told that the fortunate possessor of this unlimited permit is the manager or superintendent for a stock company, in which Mr. Dewdney is said to be interested. I have been told, too, that when men who had squatted on the land of this Company came to the Lieutenant-Governor of the Territory to ask his advice about their rights to their claims, he strongly advised them to get off as rapidly as possible.

Now, Mr. Dewdney issues no unlimited permits. We have printed "the case in point" in full because the grotesqueness of the lie is its own answer. Would anybody who ever travelled in a Pullman car believe it? But let us analyze it a little. The constable, it will be observed, is said to have been in plain clothes. No constable is ever sent to examine the cellar of travellers to the North West unless in uniform. The description of "the friend of the Governor," to whom these very communicative young men "appealed"—mark "appealed," evidently knowing his power by intuition—answers to nobody in the North-West but Major Bell, of the

Bell Farm. Major Bell is a man of sense—is it likely that he would, even if he held an unlimited permit, act in the manner described? But we are not confined to verisimilitude. As a fact Major Bell never has had any permit other than the ordinary limited permit, which allows a certain amount of whiskey and beer to be brought into the North-West.

The voracious correspondent of the Globe, the cautious gentleman, who writes "unless he is grossly misinformed," has been palming off on the readers of the Globe for general news the wild hiccupping and miserable slobbering of tavern gossip as they impressed themselves on a beclouded brain. Major Bell was in the train on one occasion when some young fellows' valises were opened and liquor discovered. They said to him afterwards, "You, as a friend of the Governor, can bring in what you like." Major Bell's answer was the producing of an ordinary permit cancelled. We had hoped under the regime of Mr. Cameron that the Globe would lose its frightful character for systematic, unscrupulous mendacity. But, if we are to judge it by its North-West news, it is the least trustworthy paper on the continent.

1883 – July 26 – *Regina Leader*, p. 4 – Group of British travellers visit the Bell Farm

- More new names for Bell Farm Visitors listing

**A DISTINGUISHED PARTY.**  
**The Views of Englishmen on the Country.**

On Monday Mr. R. Jaffray, merchant Toronto, and Colonel Williams, M. P. Port Hope, with the following gentlemen—Mr. W. H. Barneby, of Brandenburg Court, Herefordshire, Mr. A. C. Mitchell, of The Ridge, Wiltshire, Mr. Albert Bath, the honorary secretary of the West Kent Branch of the Farmers' Alliance, Mr. W. J. Mackenzie, Manager of the Land Security Company of Toronto, Mr. A. I. Davis, Midland Railway, Peterborough, Master Victor Williams—arrived in a Midland official car.

They had come to the North-West via the Albert Lee Route, and were loud in their praises of the universal courtesy they had received from the officials of that and other railways. They were also specially grateful to the C. P. R. They at once on their arrival paid a visit to the Leader's office where Mr. Davis welcomed the whole party and Colonel Williams and Mr. Jaffray as old friends. Mr. W. H. Gibbs and Mr. T. C. Johnstone accompanied them to the office.

On being asked what they thought of the country  
 Mr. Barneby said the land on the Red

103 kb

River very much surprised him by reason of its fertility—especially south of Winnipeg—which would compare favorably with any land they had seen. After leaving Winnipeg they stopped at Indian Head and visited

**THE BELL FARM.**

Up to the present everything seemed to have been done to develop it to the utmost. The progress made was very great.

Mr. Mitchell—I was astonished at the crops.

Mr. Bath. Especially the 1200 acre field of wheat.

Mr. Barneby continued, expressing on his own behalf and that of the whole party their sense of the kindness they had received from Major and Mrs. Bell.

They next went to

**FORT QU'APPELLE.**

Here they found that the population had greatly increased within the last few months. Immigration seemed to be on the move. The settlers seemed to be coming in rapidly. The situation of the town was simply charming. The position and formation of the place were everything which could be desired, not only good communication by land, but abundant water facilities, which in a large country would afford great advantages for purposes of intercommunication. The site is admirably chosen. The eye instead of meeting one vast prairie was relieved by undulating hills with wooded gorges, charming lakes, and, in a word, every variety of beauty—so different from a boundless

124 kb

Editor of the LEADER—Mr. Barneby, may I ask you what is the

**OBJECT OF YOUR TRAVELLING**

on this side of the Atlantic, and what opinion you have formed of the country?

Mr. Barneby—I have been travelling for some months with my friends Messrs. M. Clive and A. Mitchell through California, British Columbia and Canada. I do not feel myself in a position to form any final conclusions until my trip is over. But I may state my opinion of British Columbia is very favorable for emigration purposes, and I have so far formed the same opinion of Manitoba and the North-West. I have been particularly fortunate in the introductions I have met with in California, British Columbia and the North-West, so that the information I have received is absolutely reliable, and upon it I hope to base my final conclusion which I trust will be equally favorable to those at present formed.

Mr. Barneby went on to say that on the day following the pow-wow with the Indians he and Mr. Bath accompanied Col. Williams to the

**FOURWOOD & QU'APPELLE COLONIZATION COMPANY'S**

lands which consist of six townships embracing 120,000 acres. The first point was made about six miles from Fort Qu'Appelle, the drive to which was through park-like scenery with lakelets of great beauty. The first portion of the Company's lands traversed was of the same character, with a good deal of wood, but not enough to interfere with immediate

106 kb

1883 – Aug. 4 – Update from E.J. Brooks on the Bell Farm's well in Indian Head

7 miles north of here. The C.P.R. are building a large reservoir here to hold water. They are tapping a lake that is about 6 miles south of here and bringing the water from there. I hope they will make a success of it. They intend grading up the track around here at once which will improve the road very much. The Bell farm have given up their well. They went down 380 feet, and it cost them all of \$2000—they intend now to dig a well and will get plenty of water at 25 feet but may go down 75 feet so as to have abundance. Mr. Crawford is putting up his new store, and Mr. Murray will probably give the job for ours next week. We are doing very

1883 – Aug. 10 – Letter Dewdney to Macdonald – Bell running for election

“Leckie, I think from what I hear, will be beaten, and Jackson & Bell will have a hard fight.”



1883 – Aug. 13 – Major Bell defeated in election – letter from E.J. Brooks, a former squatter

68 SASKATCHEWAN HISTORY

are that I may be disturbed a good many times. This has been election day with us, and the agony is now over and Major Bell has been defeated by a majority of over 200. I think this was the only polling place that gave him a majority. I had intended not to vote, but Mr. Murray was bound to vote and I told him if he did so I should certainly vote against him and Mr. Bell, which I did. As an old squatter I could not see my way clear to vote for Mr. Bell, and at the same time I was very sorry to oppose an Indian Head man. We are getting along very nicely

1883 – Aug. 16 – *Regina Leader*, p. 2 – Defeat of Major Bell in Territorial elections

“In the Qu’Appelle District Mr. Jackson has been elected as we all anticipated. Major Bell was heavily weighted by misrepresentation, and sufficient time had not elapsed to destroy the impression of the original lies, while his opponent early secured the Metis vote – a vote which in that District is decisive. Mr. Jackson will, we trust, prove a real accession of strength and wisdom to the Council.”

1883 – Aug. 18 – Brooks reports in letter to his wife Nellie on Bell Farm crop and harvest

Indian Head,  
August 18th, 1883.

. . . . The Bell Co. expected to commence harvesting their wheat to-day but will probably leave it for a day or two longer. It looks very well and is very plump in the kernel. The straw is short and also the head but the wonder is that they have any crop at all on such breaking and such seeding as they did, besides the dryness of the season . . . . Yesterday was a very cold day but it is as bright as

1883 – August 23 – Ad in *Regina Leader* newspaper: Assiniboia Brick Yard sold bricks – owners Maass and Mangelsdorf

**BRICK FOR SALE**

AT THE  
**Assiniboia Brick Yard**  
TWO MILES WEST OF INDIAN HEAD.

**MAASS, MANGELSDORF & CO.**  
PROPRIETORS,

PRICES, AT THE YARD :

Under 5000—\$20 per 1000.  
Over 5000—\$18 per 1000.

PRICES, ON CARS AT INDIAN HEAD :

Under 5000—\$21 per 1000,  
Over 5000—\$19 per 1000.

ADDRESS:

**MAASS, MANGELSDORF & CO.**  
Indian Head, N. W. T.

All persons in and around Regina can see specimens at the LEADER office, Regina. 20-41

50 kb

1883 – Aug 23 – *Regina Leader*, p. 4 – Report on brickmaking on Bell Farm by Maass & Mangelsdorf

“One of the most encouraging facts connected with the North-West is the success of the brick-making enterprise at Indian Head. Messrs. Maas[s] & Mangelsdorf saw there was excellent clay for brick-making and came out to the Bell Farm and found it all they could desire. There is no lime in it, no alkali, and it makes first-class bricks, compact, nothing porous about it. The bricks are white and superior to those made of Manitoba clay. They have already turned out 300,000 bricks and expect to turn out another 300,000 before the end of the year. They have 50 men working now and intend bringing out another gang next year.”

1883 – summer – Presbyterian church erected with bricks from a local nearby farm – likely the Assiniboia Brick Yard

“P.2 – During the latter part of the summer a brick church was erected at the corner of Eden and Boyle Streets. The initiative was taken by Messrs. Robt. Crawford, Merchant, and James Harvey, who kept a lumber yard [yard?], and John Brown, blacksmith. They consulted with Mr. A.J. Osment, a contractor, and then sought the cooperation of Mr. Angus McKay (later Dr. MacKay of the Experimental Farm), his partners, Messrs. Williamson, Boone and Miller, and others. Consequently Mr. Osment erected the Church, the brick being made on a farm nearby. Cash subscriptions were secured of \$695.50, the Church and Manse provided a loan of \$1,000, and the total cost of the church was \$2,195.50. The corner stone was laid by James Harvey. Dr. James Robertson officiated at the Church opening in the autumn. Dr. MacKay states that Mr. Ramsay was first minister to preach in the new Church. Dr. Ramsay himself does not remember its being opened in his time. The Willing Workers, an organization of young women and girls, provided a bell for the Church about 1895.”

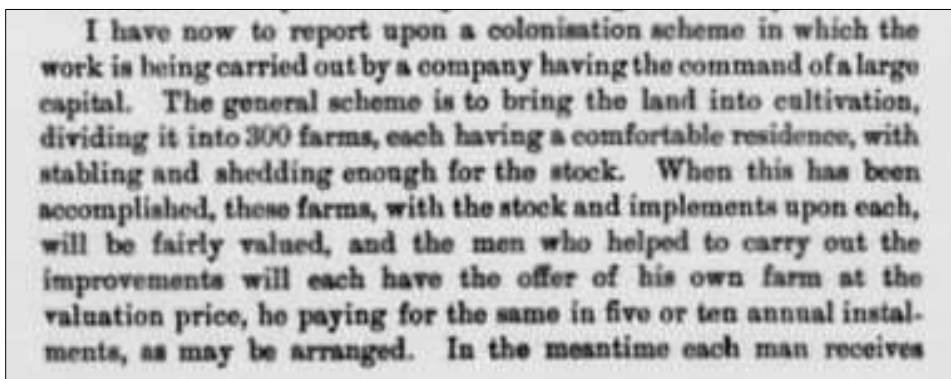
*(Source: A Historical Sketch of St. Andrew's Church, Indian Head, 1930, by Rev. R.J. McDonald, p. 2 – Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan: Sask. Historical Society File 220)*

1883 – Aug. 27 – Harvest begins on the Bell Farm – Annual report for Dept of the Interior, 1883 – Part 1, p. 11,

Letter from J. McD. Gordon, Dec. 22, 1883, Regina

1883 – August \_\_\_\_\_ - Prof. Tanner and Hugh Pollock visit the Bell Farm- [book name & date?](#) [see also Aug. 13, 1883 [Toronto Daily Mail list of passengers on Peruvian includes Tanner and Pollock](#)]

p. 25:



I have now to report upon a colonisation scheme in which the work is being carried out by a company having the command of a large capital. The general scheme is to bring the land into cultivation, dividing it into 300 farms, each having a comfortable residence, with stabling and shedding enough for the stock. When this has been accomplished, these farms, with the stock and implements upon each, will be fairly valued, and the men who helped to carry out the improvements will each have the offer of his own farm at the valuation price, he paying for the same in five or ten annual instalments, as may be arranged. In the meantime each man receives

51 kb

wages at the rate of £84 a year, and he has his house and one acre of garden ground rent free. This scheme is being carried out upon the Bell Farm, in the Qu'Appelle Valley, in the Province of Assiniboia, under the direction of Major Bell, the originator of the system, with Mr. T. Routledge as a Superintendent-in-Chief. The size of the farm is 64,000 acres, or 100 square miles. There is consequently a magnitude about the work which it is very difficult to realise, but as we learn what has been done we become better prepared to accept the anticipations of the future.

In May of last year this tract of open prairie land was more than 200 miles from any railway station. The ploughs commenced breaking the turf on the 15th of June, and the buildings were started on the 13th of August. When I visited this farm at the commencement of September in this year, no less than 40 homesteads had been built, over 9,000 acres were under the plough, and of this quantity 3,400 acres had produced excellent crops of wheat, yielding an estimated produce of 90,000 bushels of very superior corn. A main line of railway was running through the centre of the farm, and a town of considerable importance had been built near the railway station. If in May, 1882, any one had said that these results would be secured within sixteen months from that date, very few would have accepted his remarks as even probable. Proceeding then from what has been accomplished, I may now draw attention to what has been arranged for, and for these details I have to thank Major Bell, but he has expressed a doubt whether they will be accepted, except by those who have visited the scene of operations, and informed themselves as to the capabilities of the farm:—

August.	Acres under cor.	Horses on the farm.	Estimate of corn produced. Bushels.
1883 .....	3,400 .....	103 .....	90,000
1884 .....	9,000 .....	200 .....	180,000
1885 .....	18,000 .....	300 .....	360,000
1886 .....	25,000 .....	350 .....	500,000

These figures are undoubtedly astounding, but they are entitled to the highest respect. To watch 21 of Deering's Self-binding Reapers, each drawn by three horses, and working away at a 700 acre field of wheat, is a sight which will not be soon forgotten by those who witnessed it this harvest, but it certainly prepares the mind for dealing with large results. Nor was it less surprising to learn how very simple the preparation of the land had been for producing such a crop. The 3,400 acres of turf had been simply ploughed over about three inches deep in the previous summer, and it had

remained untouched until the spring, when the ground was seeded by twenty broad-cast sowing machines, each drawn by one horse, followed by forty-six sets of spring harrows, each drawn by two horses. The costs of cultivation were therefore excessively moderate. The quality of the wheat, however, is remarkably good, for it is ranked in the highest grade for the production of the much-prized Minneapolis Flour. The soil of this farm is a rich, deep, black loam, resting on a clay sub-soil. It is not Major Bell's intention to grow wheat continuously, but he proposes to give the land a summer fallow every third year, and thus whilst the land will be kept clean, it will probably produce as much wheat as if it had been under corn year after year. Under this system he is able to increase the size of each farm from the usual quantity of 160 acres (one-fourth of a square mile) to 213 acres (one-third), as the tillage for corn is thus reduced.

Well may Canada be proud of having the largest farm in the world, but she may be much more gratified to know that this farm is also remarkable for producing an enormous yield of wheat, at the smallest known cost, and of the highest quality. At the same time, as a colonisation scheme, it will be very largely profitable to her capitalists, and will settle 300 farms under conditions which will secure their future success. The Qu'Appelle Valley has been generally recognized as one of the choicest portions of the fertile North West, and in a few years we shall doubtless find that popular judgment very fully justified, by the large number of luxuriant and profitable farms which are being established within its boundaries.

106 kb

P. 32:

It now remains for me to acknowledge the very valuable assistance which I received in Canada, from all with whom I came in contact. The active assistance so kindly rendered by His Excellency the Marquis of Lorne, greatly contributed to any success which I may have secured. The same kind willingness to help extended through all the classes, and whenever information was sought it was cheerfully rendered, and I now desire to acknowledge it with my warmest thanks. My thanks were also due to my friend and companion in travel, Mr. Hugh Pollock, to whom I am greatly indebted for much valuable help in the performance of the several duties devolving upon me.

I have the honour to remain,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HENRY TANNER.

65 kb

1883 – August 30 – *Regina Leader*, p. 4 – Sixty-six CPR officials and other dignitaries visit the Bell Farm on Aug. 29 after a fast trip from Montreal to the Rocky Mountains, via Minneapolis and Winnipeg.

## DISTINGUISHED VISITORS.

### Trip to the Rockies.

On Sunday morning at nine o'clock a special train left Winnipeg on a trip to the end of the track to celebrate the opening of the line to Calgary. There were six special palace cars. President Stephen; Mr. Richard B. Angus, Vice-President; Hon. Donald A. Smith, Mr. Duncan McLntyre, Mr. Pascoe du P. Grenfell, directors; Mr. Van Horne, the General Manager, and Mr. Egan, the General Superintendent, had with them a number of distinguished guests, among them being H. S. H., Prince Hohenlohe of Prussia, the Count Gleichen, the Earl of Latham, Lord Elphinstone, Lord Castletown, Mr. Grenfell, Mr. Palmer, Mr. W. Armit, secretary Hudson Bay Company, London; Mr. Stavelly Hill, M. P., Q. C., London; Col. Kingscote, C. B., M. P., London; Col. Egerton, London; Col. Needham, 1st Life Guards, London; Sir John Waldron, London; Mr. W. Donaldson, Glasgow; Mr. A. S. McClelland, Glasgow; Prof. P. A. Simpson, Glasgow University; Mr. J. B. Hamilton, London; Mr. Thomas Reynolds, London; Mr. W. P. Clirehugh, London; Mr. J. G. Ssbald, New York; John Le Sage, editor of the London Daily Telegraph; W. W. Hardman, editor of the Morning Post; Baron Albert Salvador, editor of the Paris Figaro; Professor Paul Passie, Paris; Dr. Oskar Bergxuen, of the Vienna Free Press; the Hon. and Rev. Mr. Anson, who is likely to be stationed at Regina. Among the Canadian members of the party are His Honor Lieutenant-Governor Robitaille, ex-Governor Archibald, Hon. M. H. Cochrane,

Mr. Hartland McDougall, Montreal; Mr. T. E. Kenny, Mr. J. B. Duffus, of Halifax; Mr. Chas. Cassils, of Montreal; Mr. George Kirkpatrick, M. P., the Speaker of the House of Commons. The party passed here a little before nine o'clock. How strange it must have seemed to the Hon. A. G. Archibald, who a dozen years ago went in a Red River cart to Fort Garry as Lieutenant-Governor.

#### PRINCE HOHENLOHE'S MISSION.

A representative of the LEADER had a brief interview with His Serene Highness at the station on Sunday evening and it was learned from him that there was no intention on the part of the German Government to encourage the emigration of Germans to Canada. The desire of those in the Fatherland was to ascertain how the English carried on their system of colonization. "You can readily see on reflection," said the Prince to the interviewer of the Toronto Mail, "that the German Government would not encourage any scheme for the wholesale expatriation of their subjects to a country under the sway of a foreign power. I wish, however, of course, to see if the German settlers who are already in this country are prospering and contented with their lot. What the ultimate idea is in getting information as to methods of colonization it would not be politic for me to attempt to say." This is practically what His Highness said on Saturday evening.

According to the *St. Paul Sunday Globe*, p. 1, 26 Aug. 1883; the *Calgary Herald*, 31 Aug, 1883, p. 3; and the *Regina Leader*, 30 Aug. 1883, p. 1 - the following, plus others, were on the tour:

- Angus, Richard B., 2nd Vice-President, Canadian Pacific Railway Company
- Anson, Rev. Canon Adelbert John Robert – Archbishop of Assiniboia (later renamed Qu'Appelle)
- Anson, Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ (wife of Rev. Anson)
- Anson, Hon. C., Montreal
- Archibald, Hon. Adams George, Nova Scotia - former Lieut. Gov. of North-West Territories
- Armit, William, Secretary, London, England - Hudson's Bay Company
- Berggruen (Berggexuen ?), Dr. Oskar, *Vienna Free Press*
- Bliss, George, New York – banking firm of Morton, Bliss & Company
- Bootle-Wilbraham, Edward, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Lathom
- Brodrick, Hon William St. John Fremantle, England – Member of Parliament
- Cassils, A.
- Cassils, Charles, Montreal
- Castletown, Lord (John Fitzpatrick, 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron of Castletown)
- Clirehugh, William Palin, London
- Cochrane, Senator Matthew Henry, Ottawa
- Cutt, B.
- Dawes, James P. – Montreal brewer
- Donaldson, W., Glasgow, Scotland
- Dufus, James B., Halifax
- Egan, John M. Canadian Pacific Railway Company – general superintendent, Western Division
- Egerton, Col., Alfred Mordaunt, London, England
- Elphinstone, William Buller Fullerton, 15<sup>th</sup> Lord Elphinstone (Northwest Land Company director)
- Gleichen, Count (brother of Prince Hohenlohe of Prussia and nephew of Queen Victoria)
- Grenfell, Pascoe du P., London, England, Canadian Pacific Railway director
- Hamilton, J.B., Essex, England
- Hardman, William W., editor *Morning Post*
- Hill, Alexander Staveley, QC – Member of Parliament
- Hohenlohe, Prince - of Prussia (Herman Ernst, nephew of Queen Victoria and brother of Count Gleichen)
- Jones, J.
- Kenny, Thomas Edward, Halifax
- Kingscote, Col. Robert Nigel Fitz-Hardinge, C.B. - Member of Parliament, England
- Kirkpatrick, Hon. George Airey – Member of Parliament, Speaker of the House of Commons, Ottawa
- Le Sage, John Merry, editor, *London Daily Telegraph*
- McClellan, A.S., Glasgow, Scotland
- McDonald, H.
- MacDougall, Hartland, Montreal – stockbroker and investor
- McIntyre, Duncan, 1st Vice-President, Canadian Pacific Railway Company
- Needham, Col. \_\_\_\_\_ - 1<sup>st</sup> Life Guards, London
- Palmer, Mr. \_\_\_\_\_
- Passie (Bassie ?), Professor Paul, Paris
- Potter, Howard, New York – banking firm of Brown Brothers & Company
- Reynolds, Thomas, London, England
- Robitaille, Hon. Theodore, Lieut. Gov. of Quebec
- Salvador, Baron Albert, editor, *Paris Figaro*
- Simpson, Professor Pierce Adolphus, Glasgow University, Scotland
- Sibbald, J.G., New York
- Smith, Donald A., Lord Strathcona, Montreal, Canadian Pacific Railway Company director
- Smithers, Charles Francis, Bank of Montreal president
- Stephen, Sir George, Montreal, Canadian Pacific Railway Company president
- Van Horne, Sir William Cornelius, Montreal, Canadian Pacific Railway Company general manager
- Wallace, Sir John
- Walrond, Sir John, Baronet, Devon, England

1883 – Aug. 31 – *Saskatchewan History*, Vol. X, No. 3 – Autumn 1957, *Documents of Western History*, p, 68-69. - Edwin Brooks report on Bell Farm harvest and dignitaries visiting the Farm,

“Indian Head, August 31, 1883: . . . . I was up on the Bell farm a couple of days ago watching the self-binders at work, and think they do their business well. The wheat crop will be much better than anyone ever thought possible. Lords, Earls, etc., were here this week, two of them are cousins to the Queen.\* They remained several hours looking over the Bell farm. . . . .”

Plus this footnote from the *Saskatchewan History* editor on Bell Farm visitors mentioned by Brooks:

\*The occasion for this visit was an excursion arranged by the Canadian Pacific Railway to celebrate the opening of the line from Winnipeg to Calgary. Aboard the special train were President George Stephen, Mr. Donald A. Smith and other directors, Mr. Wm. Van Horne, General Manager, and a number of distinguished guests including H. S. H. Prince Hohenzoln of Prussia, Count Gleichen, the Earl of Lathom, Lord Elphinstone, and Lord Castletown. See *The Regina Leader*, September 6, 1883. L. H. T.

1883 – Sept. 6 – *Regina Leader*, p1 – Grand CPR Tour returns East from Rockies; visits Bell Farm (See Aug. 30 for partial listing)

**AT THE BELL FARM.**

The train stopped at the Bell farm, and the members of the party were driven over a portion of it. There they witnessed what was to them one of the most interesting features of the entire trip. In an extensive field of excellent wheat perfectly ripe, twenty-one reapers were at work cutting at the rate of 1,200 acres a day. It was most interesting to witness the rapidity with which the work was being done. After spending an hour or two on the farm the members of the party returned to the train, which in a few moments was rattling along eastward bound. A few stoppages were made between Qu'Appelle and Winnipeg, and as before stated the train reached here at 6.35, a little over 34 hours after leaving Calgary. The trip to Calgary was made in 33 hours. The time all round was excellent, when it is remembered that the line is a new one. The members of the party are loud in their praises of Mr. Van Horne for the manner in which he managed the trip. President Stephen, too, was untiring in his efforts to make everybody comfortable and happy.

THE PARTY INTERVIEWED.

MR. J. B. DUFFUS,  
of Halifax, said the Northwest was a magnificent country, and that Calgary was a very pretty place. He referred in glowing terms to their visit to the Bell Farm.

THE DUFFUS.

1883 – Sept. 6, *Regina Leader*, p. 2: - a brief comment on Bell Farm crops

“Notes & Comments: We have seen some wheat threshed from the Bell Farm. It is full and firm – the very best No. 1 Scotch Fyfe.”

1883 – Sept. 13 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press* - harvest visit of photographers Hall and Lowe from Winnipeg

“The views from the Bell farm, in possession of Mr. Harder, of the C.P.R., are truly splendid. One represents 17 self-binders at work on a monumental field of wheat. Another shows about the same number of mowers turning out of the stables to go to work cutting hay in the meadows of the farm. The farm residence and out buildings makes another pretty picture. Another one view is shown of Major Bell’s favourite horse, attended by his faithful groom. There are in all some twenty views taken by Hall & Lowe, of this city. It is intended to have the photos lithographed, so that they can be used in the new C.P.R. folder.”

1883 - Hall and Lowe photographs include one of Cree Chief Pasqua:

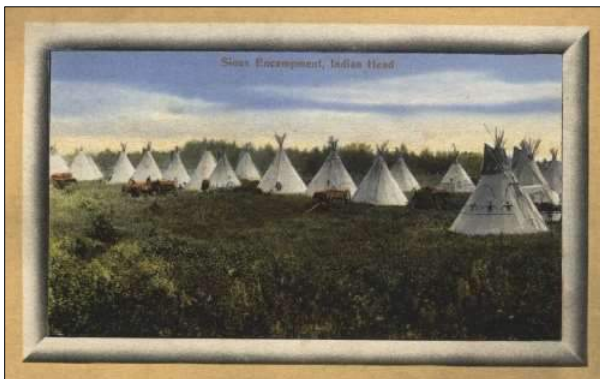


1885 photo of Chief Pasqua by Hall and Lowe **141 kb**



1885 sketch of Chief Pasqua in the *Illustrated Naval and Military Magazine*: June 1, 1885: p. 372 **159 kb**

(Frank: It is possible that the Indigenous camp on the Bell Farm, partly visible above, might have looked something like their Encampment shown in the undated photo below. ) [Source: Postcard published by A.G. Orchard, Indian Head, Sask.; based on original photo by Paul Denison, at PAS]



**142 KB**



Indigenous woman next to one of the wooden Bell Farm barns. **315 kb**



1883 – harvest time – as reported by Edmond (Ted) H. Eberts, who worked on the Bell Farm during the summers of 1883, 1884 and 1885

“But the harvest season eclipsed all other times in colour, movement and excitement. Then the great binders – 26 in echelon – with six horses harnessed to each, would lumber into the standing grain and cut out a square mile or more from one of the main fields. In the wake of the binders came the Indian stokers, 150 of them in groups of three, to string out around the four mile swath. Each man wore a striped or crimson blanket; his hair, confined by a coloured head cloth, was worn in two plaits; upon the lower lip and chin were three diverging lines of tattoo; on each cheek a circular smear of vermilion; on his feet tessellated moccasins decorated with bead work, like the fire bag worn at the belt. It was an animated and colourful scene. When the binders repassed each trio would stook the sheaves in its allotted span and then squat and smoke their little long stemmed stone pipes, inhaling each drought with a hissing sound, passing the pipe from one to another and taking turns in filling and lighting. The air reeked of kinikinik.

After remaining in stook for ten days or a fortnight, the sheaves were stacked. Threshing did not begin until November or later. The grain was stored in circular field granaries until hauled to the elevator.

At the harvest each Indian was paid fifty cents a day. Their teepees were pitched on the townsite at Indian Head. The beating of tom toms at evening dances, the barking of innumerable half starved curs and the shrill squeals of rival stallions , added to the dust, noise, confusion and excitement.”

(Source: Sask. Historical Society collection, file 19, p. 5-6 - dated 1944)

1883 – Sept. \_\_\_\_ - *Sessional Papers 1884* – No. 14, Vol 8, p. 14-246 – Welsh delegates W.J. Williams and J. Owen report - after Sept. 13

“Major Bell, of the Bell Farm, farms 64,000 acres at Indian Head, for the Qu’Appelle Valley Farming Company. He came to the district fifteen months ago and considers £200 sufficient capital to start. The land upon which he is settled is excellent, and yields 25 bushels of wheat to the acre, and 50 bushels of oats. The ploughing season was commenced on 17<sup>th</sup> April. Labourers are paid \$35 (£7) per month in summer, and \$28 (£5 12s.) in winter, besides a cottage each, rent free, and an acre of land. Wood is sold to them at cost price. The winter in this part is found to be cold though healthy. The other periods of the year are also found to be healthy. Sheep, cattle and poultry do well.”

1883 – Sept. \_\_\_\_ - Sessional Papers 1884 – No. 14, Vol. 8, p. 14 -253 – German Delegate Dr. Spielberg report

The large Bell Farm, at Indian Head, skilfully managed, is also a pattern of good agriculture. The laying out of the different farming lands is done in a rational manner; the buildings are good, durable and suitable to the purpose. Great care is taken of the roads, and the planting of so many trees is a pleasing feature. If the returns on this farm were this year generally behind the average, the cause is to be found in the fact that with small means it was necessary to plant quickly over a large surface, and for that purpose had very roughly broken up the prairie by means of three-shared ploughs. At present, this fault is being done away with by the use of heavy one-shared ploughs.

How important the planting of trees to the greatest extent is, for the future of the prairie, need not specially be pointed out. On it depends the equalizing of heat and cold; the injurious consequences of dry summers will be lessened, the critical wants of the farmer for building, wood, and fuel will be supplied. But the small farmer has not the means to go into that quickly and extensively, as at the Bell Farm, and he has not got the suitable planting material. The small trees taken from the more distant woods or from the river lowlands are insufficiently rooted and soon dry up. Besides, the taking them out is a matter of much time and expense. This difficulty may be remedied by laying out nurseries for trees by the Government or municipalities, and giving them out gratis, or at low prices. Forest and avenue trees first, as the local climate permits.

The cultivation of fruit does not promise a great future. The winters are decid-

1883 – no date – reported in the Sept. 16, 1886 issue of the *Qu'Appelle Progress* – Bell Farm crop report

1883 – Sept. 20 – *Manitoba Free Press*, p. \_\_\_\_ - Harvesting at Bell Farm

“In 1883 there was found on the Bell Farm, at Indian Head, Assiniboia, a single stool of wheat growing in the fields containing 79 perfect ears, and an estimated 4000 grains. From the same farm came a stool of oats with 27 heads, and a stool of bearded wheat with 30 heads. These yields, wonderful though they are, may have been exceeded but they show the extreme richness of a soil that can give such results with the simplest cultivation, without a pound of manure – Emigrant.”

1883 – 17 Oct. – Letter from Richards to Bell re: new Will

Lawyer Richards (Winnipeg) sends Major Bell a draft new Will. No details beyond the executor: A.S. Hall for W. Sherwood.

1883 – Nov. 3 - - *Hampshire Telegraph and Sussex* – report from newspaper correspondent Fred J. Francis on tour of Bell Farm

“From Moosomin I passed forward to Indian Head to visit the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company's Farm, commonly known as the Bell Farm, Major Bell being its managing director. I shall only give a resume of its operations, as this year's crops are the first, and sown on the breaking, that is, without having backset or reploughed in the autumn. The farm covers an area of ten square miles. A large substantial stone-built house stands in the centre, quite a treat to look at in the midst of such a timber house country; 120 barns, granaries, cottages, &c., &c., have been built, 100 horses are capitally stabled in a stone round house, 40 head of cattle are kept for merely private use, but they have neither sheep nor pigs. For this year's harvest they have 24 self binders, and next year 60 more will be added, and for the hay nine mowers. One field of wheat of 1200 acres promised remarkably well, but for next year a larger field was being

prepared, with a furrow two miles long. For the summer 90 men are employed at average wages of 7£, per month and board. It is intended to build a large elevator at the station next year, and ship grain in bulk to Liverpool direct from the farm. Twenty miles north is the delightful valley of the Qu'Appelle River, with its chain of lakes and picturesque banks, the beauties of which I shall leave for my next letter.

Fort Qu'Appelle

Fred. J. Francis"

1883 – Nov 22 – *Regina Leader*, p. 1 – Major Bell believes some land on Indian Reserves should be rented to farmers

## AN ODD FARRAGO.

### The Indian Question.

The following article from the Winnipeg Times shows what ideas will get into a paper when the Editor-in-Chief is away.

"There are 37,000 Indians in the North-West Territories. Five or six years ago, they found no difficulty in supporting themselves, vast herds of buffalo roaming the plains. But in his improvidence, the savage sawed off the limb on which he was sitting by slaughtering the buffalo in a most wasteful manner. Traders on the American side helped him to exterminate the herds by employing men to shoot the buffalo for the sake of its skin only, leaving the carcass to rot on the prairie. The result is that this year not more than fifty buffalo have been killed in all the North-West Territories. Nothing remains to show that such an animal ever existed, except the bleached bones on the plains and the buffalo "runs" which, like footpaths, cross and re-cross each other in countless mazes. The buffalo is extinct in these regions. The last of the race lingers in the Upper Missouri and Yellowstone districts south of the line; from the Canadian North-West he has disappeared forever. The antelope or cabri still remains, and this fall the Indians are making the best of them; but they, too, will soon be exterminated, and then how are the 37,000 mouths to be fed?

"The Indian, like most men, would rather

steal than starve; and this winter probably the western cattle ranches will suffer. The Indian Department feeds those Indians who remain on their reservations; but many of them, more especially the Blackfoot, prefer to take the chance of going to penitentiary for killing cattle on the Canadian side or bringing in horses from the American side of the line to staying on the reserve and drawing Government rations. The ranchmen say that the Indians are getting hunger-wild, and that they will raid the ranches before spring. The Mounted Police rendered most efficient service last season in protecting the ranches, but it is no easy task for a handful of men at Calgary and Fort Macleod to patrol so vast a region. It is expected, however, that Col. Irvine, the indefatigable commissioner of the force, in whom every man in the Territories has the most implicit confidence, will strengthen the detachments at those points, and keep the Indians quiet.

"It is evident, however that there must be a radical change in the Indian policy of Canada. We have reached the critical point where the advance guard of settlement is dogging the heels of the hungry savage. The cost of maintaining nearly 40,000 persons for all time—for if there has been no increase there certainly has been no notable decrease in the Indian population these last ten years past—will not be less than \$1,000,000 a year, at the modest outlay of 50 cents per week per capita. At 5 per cent. this represents an addition to the Dominion debt of \$20,-

000,000. A proposition has been made for relieving the Government of this enormous which is certainly worth considering. Some of the best wheat-growing lands in the North-West are embraced in the Indian reserves. Major Bell, of the Bell Farm, says that if the Government will allot these reserves, dividing them up, say, into half sections, to competent farmers, making the Indians a charge, as it were, upon each farm, the Indians can be supported henceforth without Government assistance of any kind. For example, if fifty white men were put in possession of 16,000 acres of Indian reserves, conditional upon their supporting the Indian population for which these 16,000 acres have already been set aside. Major Bell is of opinion that the result would be profitable alike to white man and Indian. The settler, in short, would pay rent to the Government in the shape of provisions and clothing for the Indian; but over and above that the profits would be his own. The settler would, of course, utilize Indian labor, so that in time the Indian would not only receive what may be called his proprietary annual allowance from the farm, but such wages as his services might be worth. This scheme, carried out, of course, under the close supervision of the Government, would without doubt work well. It is certain, at all events, that this or some other method of making the Indian self-sustaining must be adopted before the North-West is much older.

1883 – 22 Nov. – *Montreal Gazette* – Major Bell’s Indian Farm proposal refuted

<p><b>OUR INDIAN POPULATION.</b></p> <p>A suggestion has been made by Major Bell, of the Bell Farm, looking to the reduction of the expense which the maintenance of the Indian population of the Northwest now entails on the country. Some of the best wheat-growing lands in the Northwest are embraced in the Indian reserves, and the proposition is that the Government should allot these reserves, dividing them up, say, into half sections, to competent farmers, making the Indians a charge upon each farm, in which event they can be supported henceforth without Government assistance of any kind. For example, if fifty white men were put in possession of 16,000 acres of Indian reserves, conditional upon their supporting the Indian population for which these 16,000 acres have already been set aside, Major Bell is of opinion that the result would be profitable alike to white man and Indian. The settler, in short, would pay rent to the Government in the shape of provisions and clothing for the Indian; but over and above that, the profits would be his own. The settler would, of course, utilize Indian labour, so that in time the Indian would not only receive what may be called his proprietary annual allowance from the farm, but such wages as his services might be worth.</p>	<p>The scheme is a plausible enough one, but we question much whether it could be applied with satisfactory results. The Indians, while supported by the Government, are not disposed to do much for themselves, and if they are assured of support less precarious than that of the Government, it is certain that they will become more indolent than ever. But a weightier objection to Major Bell's scheme is the costliness of the machinery that would be required to operate it. The farmers who undertook to support the Indians in consideration of the gift of their lands, would be naturally disposed to cut the annual stipend or rent below what the Indian considered his due, and interminable disputes would inevitably crop up between the two. It is true our Indian population costs the country a considerable amount of money. A million dollars annually has been required for the purpose for two or three years past, and there is no immediate prospect of economy being introduced. But as settlement progresses, as the country fills up, and is brought under cultivation, the Indian will be driven to accept one of two courses, either to become industrious and earn a livelihood, or to retreat to other parts. As to the majority of the forty thousand Indians of the Northwest, they may reasonably be expected to fall into the pursuits of peace and become useful members of the</p>	<p>community, as those of Manitoba and of the tribes in older Canada have become since their contact with the white man, and in that expectation it would be injudicious to disturb the existing policy which reserves an adequate quantity of land to the Indians, places agricultural and educational schools within their reach, and gradually prepares them for the mode of life to which they will ere long be compelled by necessity to adapt themselves.</p>
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1883 – 30 Nov. – *York Herald* – report from Professor Tanner – similar to what he presented in August.

1883 – Supreme Court of the NWT – Law Suits

(Frank: As A.J. Osment was closely linked to the Bell Farm’s initial establishment, and to brickmaking in the region, law suits relating to Osment are also included in this listing)

Call Number	SAB File	Microfiche Box Reference	District Court / Supreme Court of NWT	Conflicting Parties	Year(s)	Comments
R1266 (Microfiche: R16/10)	22	H 01	DC 4/83	W.H. Donaldson V s. Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company	1883	Start Microfiche R16/10-1

R1266 (Microfiche: R16/10)	44	L 01	DC 31/83	R. Bell Vs. Canadian Pacific Railway	1883	Not sure if R. Bell is W.R. Bell or someone else ??????? – As this relates to a cow at Summerberry, I suspect this is not Major W.R. Bell.
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1883 – Dec. 8 – *Welsh Flag and Times*, p. 3 – Irish visitors W.J. Williams and D.J. Owen to Bell Farm

**NOTE:** an extensive article, but all written in Welsh. *Need translation (see also: Sept \_\_\_ 1883)*

1883 – Dec. 8 – *North Wales* – General comments on the Bell Farm & value of British pound vs Canadian dollar

“Major Bell, of the Bell Farm, farms 64,000 acres at Indian Head for Qu’Appelle Valley Farming Company. He came to the district fifteen months ago, and considers £200 capital sufficient. The land on which he is settled is excellent, and yields 25 bushels of wheat to the acre, and 50 bushels of oats. The ploughing season was commenced on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Labourers are paid 35 dollars (£7) per month in summer, and 28 dollars (£5 12 s) in winter, besides a cottage each, rent free, and an acre of land. Wood is sold to them at cost price. The winter in this part is found to be cold, though healthy. The other periods of the year are also found to be healthy. Sheep, cattle, poultry, do well.”

1883 – Dec. 18 – *Glasgow Herald* – Gov. Gen. Lorne’s report on the Bell Farm (based on reports provided by others who visited the bell Far. Lord Lorne was not at the farm himself.)

“ . . . His Lordship then gave a description of the Bell Farm which has been lately begun near the village of Qu’Appelle. The farm buildings are of stone, and, besides the ordinary accommodation, have blacksmith’s shop and other conveniences. The granary, when the harvest had all been ingathered, would contain 30,000 bushels of wheat, weighing 67 lb. to the bushel, and averaging 22 bushels to the acre. The yield of oats would be about 70,000 bushels, and all the product of 3000 acres of land. The stable – which is a circular, airy, stone building – can accommodate 36 horses; while the cattle shed, which is roofed over, is capable of holding 200 head of stock. There are 26 self-binder reaping machines on the farm, 50 sulky ploughs, 2 steam threshing machines, giving employment to 87 men. There are 40 stations on the farm, 90 work horses are owned, and 60 head of milk cows. The farm is ten miles square, and next year 10,000 acres will be put into seed. 10,000 poplar trees are being planted and the company who own the far are cutting 800 tons of wild hay for the use of the stock during the winter. The employees are paid 35 dollars a month, or about £80 a year, and already 250,000 dollars have been expended on the farm. On the farm is the town of Indian Head, containing a population of from 100 to 200; a hotel is being built, and the place is to be laid out and planted by the farm company with shade trees. From this great farm down to the smallest property the same progress is everywhere visible. As for fuel . . . . .”

1883 – Dec. 22 – 106 Buildings now on the Bell Farm.

Twenty-seven cottages erected on the Bell Farm since June of 1882. Twenty-two occupied by married men. – (Source: Annual report for Dept of the Interior, 1883 – Part 1, p. 12, Letter from J. McD. Gordon, Dec. 22, 1883, Regina)

1883 – Dec. 31 – Territorial Appointments: 1875-1883

**Summary:** Major Bell among 87 men appointed **Justice of the Peace** for the North-West Territories; three of which lived in Indian Head (James Harvey, Major Bell and Samuel McDonald) since the organization of the NWT until Dec. 31, 1883. Also, 63 men appointed as **Notary Public**, including two men from Indian Head (Thomas Routledge and Samuel Macdonald). And 43 men appointed as **Issuers of Marriage Licences**, include one man from Indian Head (Thomas Routledge). Annual report for Dept of the Interior, 1883 – Part 4, p. 14-17, Report from Lieut. Gov. Edgar Dewdney on the state of activities in the North-West Territories:

1883 – Dec. 31 – *Sessional Papers* 1884 - No. 14, , Vol 8 , p. 14-85 – Bell Farm crop report

“Major Bell, of the “Bell Farm”, reports the exportation of 10,000 bushels of red fife wheat to Montreal, at 88 cents per bushel, and that 13,000 bushels of the same crop has been distributed over the country, for next year’s seed, at \$1.25 per bushel.”

# 1884

1884 – January \_ – *Annual report for Dept. of the Interior*, 1883 – Report from Lieutenant Governor Edgar Dewdney on the state of activities in the North-West Territories:

“The experience, however, gained this year on the Bell farm, at Indian Head, is evidence of the capabilities of the soil when properly worked, and seed put in at the proper time.”

(Source: Canada Sessional Papers 1884, Paper # 12, Part 1, p. 11-12)

1884 – Jan. 3 – *Regina Leader*, p. 2 – Report on successful 1883 season at the Bell Farm

“THE NORTH-WEST. The Dominion Land Office in Regina . . . . The Success of the Bell farm disposes of all fears arising out of Summer frosts. During the past season 1,200 acres were sown with wheat, ten hundred with oats, two hundred with potatoes, roots &c. 23,020 bushels of wheat were grown. Of this 21,720 bushels were of the finest quality, and averaged about two pounds per bushel above the standard weight 67 lbs., the balance 1,300 bushels having been slightly frost bitten, though not materially injured for milling purposes. The seed from which the 1,300 bushels were raised was sown on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May too late to obtain a wet start, and to this cause is attributed the damage by frost. The cost of production is estimated at forty-two cents a bushel. They sold 10,000 bushels to Mr. Ogilvie and got 89c. f.o.b. [freight on board] They sold a good many bushels to farmers around at \$1.25 for seed. The roots and potatoes were very fine. We have seen the wheat, it is the very best Scotch fyfe No. 1.”

1884 – January 9 - First Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company AGM in Winnipeg

16. The allotment of stock to the original subscribers therefor and to those now holding same is hereby made and confirmed, that is to say, to

William R. Bell of Brockville, Ontario.....	1100	shares
John Northwood of Chatham do .....	1000	do
Hermann J. Eberts do do .....	500	do
William Northwood do do .....	275	do
William J. Howard do do .....	275	do
Andrew Northwood do do .....	250	do
Joseph Northwood, sr. do do .....	250	do
Henry Smyth, M. P. do do .....	200	do
Robert Crawford of Brockville do .....	100	do
Thomas C. Elwood of Toronto do .....	100	do
Edmund Burritt of Easton's Corners do .....	100	do
William R. Thistle of Ottawa do .....	100	do
Charles F. Houghton of Winnipeg, Manitoba .....	100	do
Maria L. Jackson of Chatham, Ontario.....	100	do
E. Dewdney of Qu'Appelle, Lieut.-Gov. N. W. T.,....	100	do
Salter M. Jarvis do do .....	60	do
Michael Houston of Chatham, Ontario .....	50	do
Hugh Malcolmson do do .....	50	do
George K. Atkinson do do .....	50	do
Harriet Northwood do do .....	50	do
James B. Todd do do .....	50	do
Arthur W. Vowell of Cassiar, British Columbia.....	50	do
James H. Burwell of St. Paul, Minnesota.....	50	do
Hermann J. Eberts, Trustee, { Chatham, Ontario .. }	40	do
Robert Z. Rogers. { Milford, Manitoba .. }		

1884 – Jan. 11 – *Winnipeg Free Press* – Report on Annual Meeting of QVFC on Jan. 9, 1884 – mentions switch to use of tin on roofs; 24 cottages & stables built to date, at \$800 per set; 14 portable round granaries at 1,000 bushels each; reference to building the hotel; re squatters: date for Bell Farm establishment set at 29 April, 1882; large document need to rescan



316 kb



212 kb



1884 – Jan 15 – *The Commercial, Winnipeg*, p. 308 – “Farmers’ Complaints - no frost damage at the Bell Farm

“That we will have year after year a succession of such misinformation it is supreme folly to anticipate, notwithstanding the predictions and omniscient pretensions of political demagogues; and we have a good guarantee that such a combination will not again occur in the fact that a very large proportion of the evils can be prevented by precautions on the part of the farmers themselves. The frozen wheat difficulty can at least be avoided as is witnessed by the results of the Bell farm crop this year, where not a bushel of wheat sown in proper season was in any way injured. That all the frozen wheat of the country however is the result of carelessness it would be unjust as well as foolish to assert. Wheat raising, and farming of every description on a large scale is as yet considerable of an experiment in the Northwest, and farmer like all people have to learn, and their education has been rather costly during the year now closed.”

1884 – Jan. 17 – *Regina Leader*- p. 2 – Report on Annual Bell Farm Financial Report for 1883

**THE BELL FARM.**

We called attention a few days ago to the admirable crop raised by the Bell Farm and we have recently been assured by some gentlemen from the vicinity that the individual settlers have grown as good and in some cases even better crops than Major Bell. But the Bell Farm crops being the grain-bearing qualities of the soil in a striking way before the public mind and cannot fail to do great good. It settles the question whether large crops of grain can or cannot be grown here.

The report of Mr. Dewdney, President, read at the annual meeting in Winnipeg is a clear statement of the company's affairs. During the summer and fall of 1882 ground was broken to the extent of 2,700 acres and seed was sown last year on the breaking. The experiment was a success. The yield in wheat averaging twenty bushels to the acre which was sold at 88c. per bushel. The balance of the grain is under order for seed at \$1.25 per bushel, and a sufficient supply of seed for 6,000 acres—the amount to be sown next Spring—is now in store in good condition. It is anticipated that the farm next year will yield fully 120,000 bushels of wheat for market next year. At an average of 400 bushels to the car this will require to remove it 300 cars, or 15 full trains.

During the past year a granary of 30,000 bushels capacity has been built, with a “lean-to” addition for the storage of implements, two barrack cottages for the accommodation of the men at the main station, a blacksmith's shop and a horse infirmary and twenty-two additional cottages with stables. These cottages are substantially built and with stables cost about \$800 each. In addition to the foregoing a stationary farm granary 4,000 bushels capacity and fourteen portable granaries, circular in form of 1,000 bushels each have been added to the storage facilities. The erection of an elevator at the station of the C. P. R. has been under consideration. The cost is estimated at \$15,000. Besides this fencing, trees, water and bridges have all been attended to on an ambitious scale. The gross expenditure for the year was \$102,346.66. Since the organization of the company the sum of \$254,719.96 has been spent. Lieutenant-Governor Dewdney is one of the directors and Messrs. Duncan MacArthur and Thos. Howard are respectively president and vice-president.

1884 – Jan. 19 – *Edmonton Bulletin* – report on 1883 harvest

“The Bell Farm at Indian Head reports the perfect maturity of the wheat before frost.”

1884 – 19 Jan – *Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 1 – Dewdney reports on Bell Farm 1883 crop

“Lieut-governor Dewdney, president of the Bell farming company, reports the operations on the farm at Indian Head for 1883 as follows: Two thousand seven hundred acres was broken and cropped, the crop averaging 20 bushels to the acre on sod. The company expects to have 6,000 acres under crop and a yield of 120,000 bushels of wheat during the coming year.”

1884 – Feb – *Presbyterian Record*, p., 42 : new brick church built at Indian Head in 1883

“**Manitoba and the Northwest:** . . . The people at Indian Head, more ambitious than most of congregations along the line of railway, have erected a very fine brick church this year with a seating capacity of fully 300. The Rev. D.M. Ramsay laboured there this summer.”

1884 – Feb. 8 – *Sherbrooke Weekly Examiner*: crop comments, based on Jan. 31, 1884 report

“Hard times are beginning to dawn upon us as with you in the Eastern Provinces. The partial failure of the wheat crop, occasioned by early frosts and the exceedingly low price of oats, (which are now selling from 10cts to 25 cts a bushel, according to locality) are the main cause of the tightness of money. The Bell Farming Company raised large quantities of good seed wheat and also no small amount of the frozen article. The former is being sold to farmers for seed. The Red Fyfe variety is the favourite one with millers, and consequently the most grown. Angus McKay who resides here, raised on ten acres of land 446 bushels of this variety, all No. 1, from eighteen bushels of wheat sown. Should this season’s crop be a good one, thousands of bushels of wheat will be exported in the fall, as an immense tract of land has been prepared for spring seeding. I have just as much faith in the great and glorious future of this country as I have ever had, but have none in the Ottawa Government and very little in such enterprises as the Bell Farming Company ever carrying out their gigantic schemes to a successful issue, and excepting for the loss which would naturally occur to the shareholders, would not be sorry to have them collapse.

B. Indian Head N.W.T. Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>, 1884”

1884 – Feb. 8 – *Sherbrooke Weekly Examiner*: - Piapot community cutting wood for Bell Farm

The news article below "Communications" has a few Bell Farm references - a not so good opinion of the operation but also mentions Chief Pie-a-Pot and band chopping 800 cords of wood for the Bell Farm.

We celebrated the closing hours of the old year and the advent of a new one by entertaining a dozen or more dusky braves to lunch. It was a very interesting and novel sight to us, who were but lookers on, to see them squatting on the floor and drinking tea strong enough to float a stone and stowing away pounds of hard tack, and thankful enough were we that our lot had been cast in more pleasant places than that of the North American Indian. As a rule, they are a dirty, lazy and harmless lot, a few of them are good workers, but these few are the exception. Pie-a-pot and his band have finished chopping some eight hundred cords of wood for the Bell Farming Company, and for which I understand they were paid one dollar and fifty cents per cord. Pie-a-pot is the chief of the Crees, and lives on the reserve near us; he has given Governor Dewdney and his officials more trouble and anxiety perhaps than any other red-skin in the whole North West. Gov. Dewdney does not seem to have the happy faculty of inspiring confidence in the breast of the poor untutored savage, and for that matter not any too much so in that of the white man. It is the opinion of people generally that he intends to feather his little nest while Governor of the Territories. And if half of the stories related about him and his speculations are to be believed, that little nest must be already well lined and proof against a rainy day. It is currently reported that he is to be the Governor of the contemplated Province of Assiniboine; but we trust that such will not be the case. His whole-

61 kb

1884 – Feb. 21 – *Regina Leader* – p. 4 – Bell Farm Reaches Agreement with the Squatters

**“THE BELL FARM V. THE SQUATTERS.** Mr. T.C Johnstone of Regina the solicitor of the Squatters on the Bell Farm who is now at Ottawa has succeeded in making a satisfactory arrangement on behalf of his clients. An agreement has been signed at the Capital embodying the terms of the settlement, the squatters are to vacate the lands they now hold and are to receive from the Company in cash the value of their interest in the same including their improvements such value to be determined by arbitration, the squatters are to be provided with homesteads and pre-emptions elsewhere and are to be entitled to a patent after one years (sic) residence instead of the usual period of 3 years. The squatters also obtain other advantages but these appear to be the main features of the agreement.”

1884 – Feb. 26 – Edwin Brooks reports in letter on birth of the McClary girl on the Bell Farm, and death of Mrs. McClary; and speculation that the Bells might adopt the oldest of the McClary children

Indian Head,  
26th Feb., 1884.

I don't know that I have anything in particular to write to you this week but must try and write a little. We have been having a regular January thaw for three days. The weather has been very mild indeed but is now much colder. We prefer the cold to the wet. The latter is too much like Quebec weather. We receive but two mails a week now and the mail this morning brought me no letters from anybody. A lady named Mrs. McClary working for the Bell Farming Co. gave birth to a little girl about ten days ago. Her husband was away down in Winnipeg and she did not receive very good care. The nurse allowed the fire to go out when the baby was but four days old, and the mother got a chill from which she never recovered. She died on Sunday. Her husband arrived last night and expects to take her remains to Ontario. I believe she leaves two children. I think Mrs. Bell expects to adopt one of them (the oldest one) as she has no children of her own.



1884 – 16 March – *Manitoba Free Press* – Bell Farm bonds bought by Winnipeg bankers. (McArthur and Boyle became Bell Farm Directors in 1885)

“McArthur, Boyle and Campbell, bankers, have purchased the bonds of Major Bell’s fare, to the amount of \$150,000.”

1884 – 17 March – [Source: Winnipeg . . . .](#)

**“IMMIGRATION. – The First Arrivals of the Season – A Contingent for the Bell Farm – The Sowden Colonists.**

Immigration has now set in, and judging from news received from different quarters, it promises to be lively. Major Bell, of the Bell Farm, started a special train at noon on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March, consisting of ten cars of horses, implements, and settlers’ effects, and one car of passengers, all families who are to settle and work on the farm. Amongst the latter are carpenters, blacksmiths and farm hands, all from the vicinity of Ottawa and Brockville. In addition to the foregoing, Major Bell is advertising for twenty families in this city to join the above party, to proceed west in time to commence spring operations. Mr. Eberts, Secretary of the Company, in the Bird Block, will arrange with the applicants to-day. The special train, which arrived at an early hour this morning, proceeded by the C.P.R. to Brockville, thence by the Utica & Black River, to Utica, N.Y., where the New York Central was taken to Buffalo, thence by the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern to Chicago, where the Chicago & Northwestern was taken to St. Paul, thence the St. P. M. & M. and C.P.R. to Winnipeg. Major Bell, who was in New York the other day, says that the immigrants arriving at New York are being very much impressed with the low fare of \$9.75 to Manitoba, and it is likely to draw largely upon American immigrants this season.”

1884 – March 22 – *Manitoba Daily Press*, p. 1 - advertisement in Winnipeg for Bell Farm workers

“WANTED – A GOOD COOK, TWO General Servants (female), and Twenty Married Men accustomed to the care of Horses, for the Bell Farm. Apply Monday afternoon at the office of the Qu’Appelle Valley Farming Company Ltd., Bird Block, \_ Bannatyne St. E. H.J. Eberts, Sec. Treas. Mar 22 84.”

1884 – March 27 – *Brandon Mail*, p. 6 – minor reference to the Bell Farm :

“A List of Post Offices to be opened on the First of April . . . and Balcarres, Katepwa and Kenlis are situated in the Qu’Appelle Valley, due north of Indian Head and the Bell Farm”

1884 – March 27 – *Brandon Mail*, p. 6 - purchase of Bell Farm Bonds by McArthur, Boyle and Campbell

“**PROVINCIAL ITEMS.** - Messrs. McArthur, Boyle & Campbell, bankers, have purchased Bell Farm bonds to the amount of \$150,000, running five years and bearing interest at 6 per cent, at 65.”

1884 – April 3 – *Brandon Mail*, p. 8 – Ralph Todd to install Bell Farm telephones

“Mr. Todd is going to put up six telephones on the Bell farm, near Indian Head.”

1884 – April 8 – Report published in the *Royal Colonial Institute*, Annual Report for 1883-84, p. 193-194:

“Seventeen Years in the Canadian North-West”, presented by Alexander Begg.

“. . . .Six stations are established between Broadview and Qu’Appelle, the latter a thriving place, owing to the proximity to the fertile agricultural district lying to the north. The Qu’Appelle valley is already famous, and is thickly peopled with the very best class of settlers. Here is situated the famous Bell Farm. This estate was organized in 1882, and had under crop in 1883 4,000 acres, which yielded an average of twenty-two bushels of wheat per acre from the sod, *i.e.*, without backsetting. The company are preparing to put under crop 10,000 acres during the season of this year. No less than 10,000 bushels of last year’s crop were sold for export at a good profit. The great success attending the operations of this farm illustrates the facility with which wheat can be grown in the North-West and sold at a profit to Eastern buyers. . . . “

1884 – May 29 – *Regina Leader* – p. 4 – Bell Farm buys flax seed from Mr. Body, Winnipeg miller.

“The Bell farm Company has taken 500 bushels of flax seed from Mr. Body, who is about erecting a linseed oil mill at Winnipeg. This quantity will seed down 1,500 acres of sod. The product, estimated to about 25,000 bushels, will be purchased by Mr. Body, who will commence crushing as soon as the crop is threshed.”

1884 – June 5 – *Regina Leader*, p. 4 – Bell and Sykes Farm crops

“The Bell farm will have 500 acres of wheat and 2,000 of oats on old land and 1,000 acres of oats on new breaking this year. The Sykes farm, near the Bell farm, is to be worked by steam power. They broke 1,300 acres last year and will break the same amount this year, Mr. Connell has 1,700 acres under crop this year and will have as much more next year.”

1884 – June 12 – *Regina Leader* – p. 1 – Tree planting details on the Bell Farm

“A leading resident of the North-West, says the Emerson International, writes a description of his trip to the Rockies to a friend in Ottawa. He says of the Bell Farm: “In one field I saw 70 pair of horses breaking up the prairie, 7,500 acres have been put in wheat, oats and flax this spring, and on May 5 most of it was over the ground, much of the land is tinted with the beautiful green of the spring wheat. The management on this farm is alive to the beauty as well as utility, and for proof they had planted at the time I was there sixteen miles with a double row of trees at each side of the road, 260 per mile. A contract has been given, and the contractor finds the trees in the bluffs and plants them at ten cents per tree. They are six to eight feet high, look thrifty and nice, and are certainly a lesson and pattern to be followed in our prairie country.”

1884 – (June or July) – A.M. Burgess, Deputy Minister of the Interior, Annual Report for Dept. of Interior for 1884, Part 6, p. 13-14 and 15-16 – also comments on mixed and specialized farming in the West.

#### THE BELL FARM.

I spent a day at Indian Head, and succeeded in effecting reference of the difficulty between the proprietors of the Bell Farm and the squatters to arbitration. The squatters choose Mr. George Taylor, M.P., Ganonoque, to represent them, and the company appointed Mr. John F. Wood, M.P., Brockville. These gentlemen visited the ground as soon as possible after my return to Ottawa, and agreed that the actual value of the the squatters' improvements should be paid by the company ;

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[PART VI]

that the squatters should select homesteads upon the public lands open to settlement ; and that the Government would be asked to favourably consider their claim to have the period of actual residence and cultivation of the lands they occupied within the company's tract credited in regard to the lands selected. To this settlement the Government and the company agreed, and it has been accepted by all the squatters but one. I made a thorough inspection of the tract sold to the company, and found the crops in a forward and promising condition, and must add my testimony to that offered by all who have seen the farm, as to the illustration it affords of the wonderful grain-producing capacity of that section of the North-West. My objects were facilitated in every possible way by the manager, Major Bell.

MIXED FARMING—CARE OF IMPLEMENTS.

The partial failure of the crop last year was, undoubtedly, a very great calamity, and was the principal cause, combined with the exaggerations indulged in at some public meetings in the Province, and by a number of organs of public opinion in Manitoba and elsewhere in Canada, of reducing very materially the settlement made upon public lands this season. But the people have learned some valuable lessons from their misfortune, one of which is that, however profitable the growing of wheat may be in a country so well adapted as the North-West for the production, at very small cost, of enormous crops, it is better that the bulk of the population should not be entirely dependent upon that one industry. What makes exclusive wheat growing very enticing to a certain class of settlers is, that it leaves at their disposal a considerable portion of the year, during which they may give their attention to other pursuits. But it is with farming as it is with every other calling in life, to be successful, a man must, as a rule, give to it his whole time and energy. Except in cases like the Bell and other similar large farms, where the raising of grain is made a specialty, and not only is the land selected for that purpose, but the most improved methods are resorted to, and the best procurable machinery obtained, I am convinced that mixed farming would, in the end, prove the most profitable to the settler, and most advantageous to the country. The recurrence of the disaster of last year would in this way be avoided, and a homestead would become much more the actual home of the farmer than it is at present; thus promoting the *bonâ fide* settlement of the land,

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48 Victoria.

Sessional Papers (No. 13.)

A. 1885

the establishment in rural districts of schools, churches, and social organizations, and the greater comfort of the majority of the people. The average homesteader has, in too many cases, neither cows, sheep, pigs nor poultry; and the consequence is that almost everywhere throughout the Province the products of these animals are scarce and dear. That the farmer should be a customer of the country storekeeper for such articles as butter, eggs and bacon, is almost beyond belief, but it seems to be the fact nevertheless. Of the advantages of mixed farming the people themselves are rapidly becoming convinced, and it is shown by the statistics collected with so much care, and published, from time to time, by the Department of Agriculture of the Province of Manitoba, that great advances in the direction of this change have been made in the course of the past two or three years. Another respect in which there is great room for improvement, is the care of implements. I regretted to see, on every hand, valuable ploughs, harrows and harvesters lying in the open air, exposed to sun, wind and rain—a condition in which, I am informed, they frequently remain throughout the whole season, except when they are in actual use. Many of these articles have been purchased on long credit—and, it is not necessary to add, at long prices, too—and it is greatly to be feared that, in many cases, they will be worn out through exposure to the weather before they are actually paid for.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. M. BURGESS,

*Deputy Minister of the Interior.*

The Hon. Minister of the Interior,  
Ottawa.

I want to add, at the point where I mentioned the arrangement made with regard to the exclusion of sheep from the cattle country, that the cattle industry has grown to be one of great importance to the North-West; that there are millions of acres outside of the territory now occupied for that purpose—as there will continue to be for many a year to come—the quality of which is far better suited for ordinary agriculture; and that, in my opinion, it would be a great public misfortune if the Government should pursue any course calculated to interfere with the successful pursuit of cattle raising, and the investment of a still larger amount of capital in what is proved to be so important an adjunct to the opening up of the country.

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1884 – Spring-Summer – Jane. E. Groom brings deaf-mute men and boys to the West; five are placed at the Bell Farm.

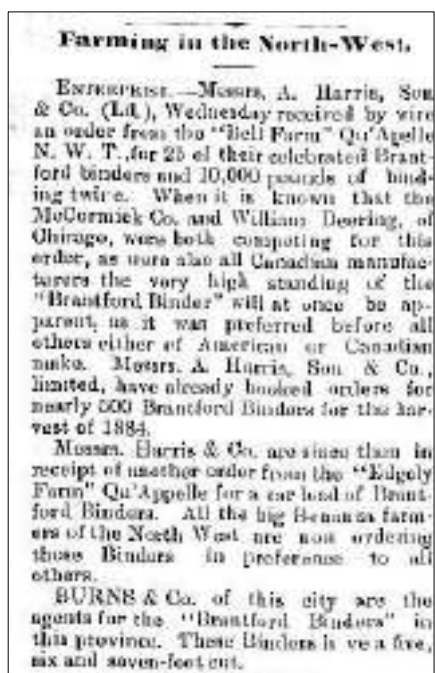
“Miss Groom thus proceeds with her narrative:

‘ I placed five of my party on the farm of Major Bell, a gentleman well-known in Manitoba, who owns a very celebrated farm, covering 65,000 acres extending some ten miles around. Major Bell’s property is situated at Indian Head; he has eighty cottages on the estate, and an immense quantity of farming implements. This gentleman employs a great number of agricultural labourers, and of my people he said that they would soon pick up and learn all that was necessary to earn their own living and to cultivate their ‘homesteads,’ as they were quick and could soon learn anything. They were delighted when I drove them over portions of Major Bell’s estate, and were astonished to see such magnificent crops growing on the farm. Mrs. Bell and the Major were most kind and affable to me, and I have reason to believe that the more this gentle lady and her kind husband see of the deaf and dumb people the more they will feel an interest in the settlers I take out there, especially those who would require employment; they would find, at any rate, that the deaf men would do their work as well as the hearing men, and the former do not leave off to gossip as the others do.’

Besides the five members of her people whom she places in the employment of Major Bell, there was “one poor deaf and dumb shoemaker who was sent to a prosperous town in Manitoba . . .”

Source: *A future for the deaf and dumb in the Canadian North-West: Being an account of a first attempt at colonisation in the Canadian North-West by Miss Jane Elizabeth Groom, and a plan of her future operations; 1884, p 15-16.*

1884 – (June 5 or May 6) - *British Times Colonist* (1884/06/05) – purchase of Brantford Binders



90 kb



1884 – June 24 – *Regina Leader* – p. 2 – Pork at the Bell Farm

“PORK – Pork will yet form one of the great staple industries of the North-West. The amount of port used here is enormous. Last week we saw car load after car load of pigs going West and teams taking large quantities to the barracks. Now pigs thrive here. The cold does not affect them. The pigs in Regina have all done well. Near the crossing is a perpetually running stream. At the Bell Farm the pigs have done better even than the cattle. Why does not some capitalist come here and secure the trade? Canadians should wake up to their opportunities in the North-West. Cannot Canadians – cannot North-Westerners supply tea, sugar, pork, biscuits, hay what not for the North-West, as good as can be found? . . . . .”

1884 – July 1 – as published in Nov. 21 *Ayrshire Post*: Dominion Day celebrations on the Bell Farm, including First Nation bands



1884 – July 3 – *Manitoba Free Press*, p. \_\_\_\_ - note re: Bell Farm – [check for details](#)

1884 – July 6 – *Manitoba Free Press*, p. \_\_\_\_ - more re: Bell Farm – [check for details](#)

1884 – July 10 – *Brandon Mail*, p. 8 – Thomas (from Chatham, Ont.) and Wood (from Brantford, Ont.) visit Bell Farm

The Chatham Planet says: Mr. Thomas, manager of the Bank of Commerce, has just returned from the Northwest. While there spent a couple of days at the Bell Farm, Indian Head, and reports that everything is in the most promising condition. There are now 7,500 acres in crop, from which it is confidently expected 80,000 to 100,000 bushels of wheat will be harvested, while the yield of oats will also turn out well. Mr. Thomas was accompanied by Mr. Wood, a practical and wealthy farmer of Brantford, and Major Bell explained very fully his system of book-keeping and carrying on the farm. Both gentlemen returned fully convinced that, reports to the contrary, this immense property is being judiciously and economically administered, and the present management will make the venture a grand success." So says the Free Press, and this same Wood is brother to the late Chief Justice of this Province. Although a staunch Reformer he did not hesitate to tell his hearers on the train, on his return trip, that the Free Press in endorsing the Farmers' Union movement, did more injury in a month than it can hope to repair in the next five years, let its articles be ever so ably written.

93 kb

1884 – 10 July – Robert Miller Christy first visits the Bell Farm, and began his report, as published in 1885; he visited again on Ug. 20, 1884 and signed the Bell Farm Visitor's Register (# 55):

especially about the shoulders of the animals. Some seeds I brought home penetrated half an inch into the shoulder of one of our sheep. Most settlers are well aware of this peculiarity, as the seeds also trouble curly-haired dogs and severely prick the legs of any one walking through the grass. I have elsewhere published in detail my observations on this point, and have been able to show that the seeds are only troublesome during about three weeks in the year; that, by running a mowing-machine over the ground infested with the grass, or by keeping the sheep on enclosed ground, they eat the grass down, its seeds never reach maturity, and their harmfulness is destroyed; consequently, the spear-grass need be no serious hindrance to the keeping of sheep in Manitoba. I do not believe the seed has the power of killing animals, as I could never hear of a fatal case, though often told that such had occurred.

The gigantic "Bell Farm," near Indian Head, has gained such world-wide celebrity that I cannot pass on without referring to it, though it lies far to the west of the province of Manitoba. On the 10th of July, 1884, whilst upon a journey from Winnipeg to Medicine Hat, I managed to spare a day for the purpose of visiting the Bell Farm. The following facts are gleaned partly from notes made upon the spot, and partly from information since supplied by Major Bell:—

#### NOTES ON A VISIT TO THE BELL FARM.\*

The Bell Farm lies upon the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, 312 miles west from Winnipeg, and close to the town and station of Indian Head, in the Territory of Assiniboia. It is the property of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company, Limited, which was formed in the year 1881, but it takes its name from its able manager, Major W. R. Bell, who resides upon the spot. The entire area contained within the boundaries of the farm is 64,000 acres, or 100 square miles; but of this a number of sections are the property of the Hudson's Bay Company, while others are reserved by Government for educational purposes, so that the area actually covered by the farm is not more than about 54,000 acres. It is, however, I believe, a fact that Major

\* This article appeared in the *Field* on December 27, 1884. It is reprinted (with slight alterations) by the kind permission of the editor.

Bell is the manager of the largest, single, arable farm in the world; but this statement will not bear close examination, for as yet only a comparatively small portion is under cultivation. Neither is it altogether correct to describe the company as a farming company only, since it has two strings to its bow, and is also to some extent a Colonisation Company, as will be hereafter explained.

When, on April 29, 1882, the company obtained possession of the land by special Act of Parliament, it lay more than two hundred miles distant from the nearest railway station. The difficulty of obtaining so large a tract of land, unbroken by the homesteads of settlers, necessitated the location of the farm so far away in the west; but so rapidly was the construction of the railway carried on, that Indian Head was reached, and the line was running through the centre of the farm, within a few months. Nor is the situation of the farm in any respect other than a good one. Much has lately been written of the almost fabulous fertility of the fine black soil of the prairies; and nowhere is the soil better than in the valley of the Qu'Appelle or Calling River, where the farm lies. It is slightly stony, however, in places, and is everywhere marked by the old paths of the buffalo. Several pleasant *coulées*, with streams in their bottoms, intersect the farm. The conditions under which such a large tract was made over to a single private company were that the company should have the land at the exceedingly low price of 1½ dol. (5s.) per acre, on condition that not less than 4,000 acres were to be broken and brought under cultivation annually for five years, or 20,000 acres in all; but these conditions have probably been found too irksome, for I understand that application is about to be made to Government for their cancellation. It was considered that the advantage to the whole country of bringing so large an amount of land under cultivation would more than compensate for the low price at which it was sold. The general scheme of the company is to bring the land under cultivation, dividing it up into about 250 separate farms of 213 acres, each provided with a good house and buildings. These farms will then be offered for sale to the men who have charge of them, at a valuation price, payable in instalments over a term of years. At present the selling price is from 12 dols. to 20 dols. per acre. The whole of the land is intended ultimately for sale, though the home-farm of about 20,000 acres might be retained by the company if found to be sufficiently profitable. In any case it is expected to be all under cultivation two years hence—i.e., at the end of 1886.

No one visiting the farm will fail to be struck with the idea that in Major Bell the company has a remarkably clear-headed manager. His energy and foresight are made obvious by the perfectly methodic manner in which every operation is carried out—so different from the slipshod ways of the average settler. Roughly speaking, his system of farming, when complete, will be as follows: Each "section," or square mile, will be divided into three portions of 213 acres each, one of which it is intended to fallow yearly. While the company retains possession of the land, a foreman will be set over about every twelve farms or four sections. I will next speak of what has been and is being done.

The ploughs commenced to "break" the rich, black, prairie soil on June 15, 1882, and, before winter set in, 2,400 acres were ready for cropping the following year. In the middle of August the farm buildings were commenced. As early as possible next spring one half of the broken area was sown with oats, and the other half with wheat. The latter gave an average yield of 19½ bushels per acre, and such of it as was sold (local demand taking nearly the whole of it for seed) realised an average price of one cent over the dollar (4s. 2½d.) per bushel. Some of the later-sown wheat was injured by the early frost on the night of September 7. In the same year (1883) 4,600 additional acres were broken, making 7,000 in all, and the following spring (1884) about 5,500 acres were sown with wheat, 1,200 with oats, and the remainder with flax. This crop was, of course, still on the ground at the time of my visit, and it was a really fine sight which the Major was able to show me during the very enjoyable drive round his farm which he was kind enough to take me. The longest furrow to be seen was two miles in length; several single pieces of wheat covered more than 1,000 acres each; while the largest extended to 1,500 acres. In all directions ploughs were at work tearing up the splendid virgin soil, for an additional 5,500 acres were to be broken before winter, and the entire year's ploughing was expected to reach 12,000 acres. As we gained a slight eminence and were able to look around for miles over the level prairie, seeing, on all sides, fields of waving grain, large expanses of recently-broken ground, horses and men busily engaged in breaking more, the substantial stone farmhouse, with the other farm buildings (including the large circular stone stable) grouped around it, and the sun shining brightly on the zinc roofs of the little houses of the foremen, scattered widely on every side, each with its acre of garden, one could but feel a pardonable pride in the thought that the energy and power of man was thus able to convert what, only three years before, had been an uninhabited waste, into the smiling and prosperous scene then around us.

As we went along I made many notes of the more interesting points mentioned by Major Bell. The whole of the ploughing is done with horses, of which 193 are now kept. The Major will not hear of steam being used, urging (with much force) that, as he would require just as many horses as he now keeps to sow and reap his crops, they may just as well do the ploughing also, instead of standing idle for a good portion of the year while the ploughing is being done by steam. The ploughs used are all sulkies and gang-ploughs, on which the men ride. Each turns more than one furrow, to a depth of rather over three inches, and each is required to travel sixteen miles a day; indeed, it is said that twenty miles forms an average day's work when no accident occurs. The width of the furrows is from fourteen to sixteen inches. At the time of my visit forty-five ploughs were breaking over one hundred acres per day. Breaking is continued during the whole of the summer. After the sod has lain a while to rot, the disc-harrows are passed over it diagonally, cutting it up into lozenge-shaped pieces and leaving it ready for seeding first thing in the spring. "Back-setting" is dispensed with on the farm. As much as

possible of the stubble-ploughing is done in the autumn, so that the seed may be got in the moment after the frost takes its departure in spring. Sowing is done with broadcast seeders, a kind of combination between drill and harrows. Last year twenty-two self-binders by Deering, of Chicago, were used in getting in the crops; but to these there have this year been added twenty-five more by an excellent Canadian firm, the Messrs. Harris, of Brantford, making forty-seven in all. About sixty head of cattle and some pigs are at present kept upon the farm. Barb-wire is largely used for fencing. So great has been the number of visitors to the farm that the company has been compelled to erect, at considerable expense, a large brick hotel at Indian Head; but it is not yet open. The farm has become so well known that there is never any difficulty in getting sufficient men, especially as good wages are given. This summer 160 to 180 men were employed, at 30 dols. per month and board. During the coming winter a much smaller number will be retained at 15 dols. per month. The bareness of the prairie has been enlivened by the planting of such large numbers of small poplar trees that, if all had been planted in a straight line at their present distances apart, they would have extended no less than twenty-four miles. The trees were dug in the "bluffs," or clumps of wood, and set out beside the roads which give access to the different parts of the farm. Altogether the total amount of capital expended upon the farm is upwards of 375,000 dols. (£77,160).

During an afternoon's drive of some miles I had an excellent opportunity of noticing the pieces of wheat through which we passed. In most cases the colour and condition was excellent, and formed a great contrast with the foul and uneven pieces so often grown by the average settler. There were, however, pieces which did not promise nearly so well as the rest. For instance, there was a volunteer crop, that had appeared on a piece of land which had borne a crop the previous year, and had been intended as a fallow this season, and looked so healthy, that it was allowed to grow by way of experiment—not, however, with very good results; for I have since heard that it did not yield more than on average of six bushels per acre, though it certainly promised more in July. This was, of course, fall or winter wheat, which has as yet only been grown experimentally in the North-west, and even then with but little success. Then there were 640 acres sown with wheat that had been injured by frost the previous autumn through being backward, gophers having eaten down the first spring-growth. About half of the area sown was in good condition, the soil being slightly moist; the other half was thin and poor, a drier piece of ground apparently not suiting it; and, as it lay close to the house, it proved a great eyesore to Major Bell. The whole, however, has not yielded badly, for the product is now estimated at twenty bushels per acre.

To me the Major's statements as to what it cost him to produce a bushel of wheat were of chief interest, as doubtless they will be to most readers. He assured me that, as near as he could calculate, the cost to him of growing and placing on the rail at Indian Head each bushel of wheat that he produces is from 30c. to 33c. (1s. 3d. to 1s. 4½d.), which he also estimates to be 40 per cent. lower than the

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cost to the average settler. Further, he says that not more than 7 c. to 9 c. (3d. to 4d.) per bushel is paid for manual labour. At the present time the freight from Indian Head to Montreal (1,746 miles) is 32 c. (1s. 4d.) per bushel, but it will be lower next year, and Major Bell is confident that when, two years hence, the whole of his home farm is under the plough, he will be able to lay prime hard "Red Fyfe" wheat, of the excellent quality usually produced in the North-West, down in Liverpool at a cost price of 75 c. (3s. 1d.) per bushel, or 6 dols. (25s.) per quarter, or even lower.

Of the financial standing of the concern I am not competent to speak, nor am I able to draw any comparison between the Bell Farm and the large wheat-farms of the United States, though I have visited the Dalrymple Farm in Dakota.

The following calculations, though they may not give any very valuable results, will be interesting, as showing the magnitude of the operations which Major Bell carries on. A plough having a single share only, cutting 12 in. wide, would require to travel eight miles and a quarter in order to plough an acre. If the whole of this year's ploughing were to be done with one such plough, it would require to travel 99,000 miles, or about four and one-eighth times round the globe, which would occupy nearly sixteen years and a half at the rate of two acres per day, or nearly thirty-three years if oxen were used, and one acre a day only were ploughed. If a single team were to have started to cut this year's crops with a 5 ft. swarth machine, and to have travelled twenty miles per day, they would have taken 577 days to accomplish the work. When the entire home farm is under cultivation, the estimated yield of wheat will be upwards of half a million bushels, which would require a train consisting of over 1,000 of the ordinary grain-cars to carry it all away.

Although farmers in Manitoba suffer from various disadvantages, such as short summers, cold winters, unseasonable frosts, want of labour, and the like, still, many of the principal disadvantages of farming in England are absent. There are no rent-days, no tithes, no sparrows, no rats, no costly manures to be bought, no burdensome taxes, no antiquated landlord's restrictions, and but few insect pests. Sometimes the crops are injured by frost or hailstorms; but this is not often. Sparrows will, doubtless, arrive in due time, as also rats. Farmers consider gophers injurious to their grain-crops, and often boast of having shot 150 or 200 in a year. A gopher is a small burrowing animal, of which two species (*Spermophilus franklini* and *S. tridecem-lineatus*) are common on the prairie. One farmer told me that he had recently taken as much as half a bushel of good wheat out of a gopher's store-house. The cosmopolitan English mouse has not yet found its way to Manitoba; but settlers

PLUS: this brief mention on p. 159

producing capabilities of Manitoba. There was also an exhibit of Red Fyfe wheat grown on the Bell Farm, which, on account of its purity, was being sold at the rate of 1 dol. 25 cents per bushel for seed.

1884 – July 22 – *Winnipeg Free Press*:

Bell elected a Director of the Qu'Appelle Valley & Indian Head Agricultural Society

1884 – July 22 *Winnipeg Free Press* –

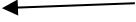
Bell elected first Reeve for RM of Indian Head # 156

1884 – July 22 – *Winnipeg Free Press* – G.A. Stewart, Winnipeg architect

Stewart is erecting a wooden grain elevator for Bell at Indian Head, on a brick laid in concrete foundation (This is a different structure from the Flour Mill designed and erected by the Pray Manufacturing Company, of Minneapolis, Minnesota.)

**INDIAN HEAD.**  
 Correspondence of the Free Press.  
 On the 1st inst. a large and influential meeting of farmers and others of Indian Head and vicinity was held at Indian Head for the purpose of organizing an agricultural society.  
 At 10 o'clock Jas. Harvey, Esq., was voted to the chair, and Mr. S. MacDonnell requested to act as Secretary. The reports and subscription lists of several of the committees for members were then presented and accepted as being very satisfactory; the lists showing that at the least computation the rolled members must exceed 500.  
 On motion of Mr. Crawford, seconded by Mr. P. Ferguson, the following gentlemen were elected to the directors, viz.: Angus McKay, Esq., President, and R. S. Garrett, Esq., Vice-President; Directors—Major Bell, Messrs. Joseph Sheppard, P. Ferguson, W. H. Carr, R. A. Walker, Thos. Mills, C. Battistone, H. S. Skinner, sr., W. G. Rodgers, and Sam MacDonald, N. P., Secretary-Treasurer. The Society was then chartered—name—"The Qu'Appelle Valley and Indian Head Agricultural Society."  
 The President, Major Bell and Secretary-Treasurer were requested to wait upon His Honor the Lieut.-Governor to solicit aid from the N. W. Council. This, these gentlemen did on the 8th inst., at the Council Chamber, Regina, where His Honor very graciously received them, and upon hearing the purport of their mission and that he was extremely sorry that the executive had such a small balance on hand from which grants, of the nature requested, could be made, but that he could do his utmost for the society; as he was of opinion that Agricultural Societies should be encouraged and fostered in the territories.  
 On the 12th inst. a meeting of the Board of Directors was held, when it was resolved that the first fall show would be held on the 16th of October next at Indian Head, of which, no doubt, public notice will be given.

This young, I believe first in the N. W. L. Agricultural Society will no doubt give a good account of itself, as the directors are determined that neither pains nor trouble will be spared in making this show an attractive one to farmers and all who take an interest in the future prosperity of this great Northwest.  
 Mr. G. A. Stewart, architect and C. E., of Winnipeg, is erecting here, for the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Co., an elevator after his new patent. The foundation is already laid, and is of brick laid in concrete, then timbers 8x8 also laid in concrete, which form the basement floor. The body of the building is to be a hexagon in form, 50 feet in diameter and 50 feet high from the centre of which a tower will rise 40 feet. The whole will be covered with sheet iron and painted. The capacity is to be 50,000 bushels, and the machinery will be driven by a 15 horse-power engine. The estimated cost of this elevator is about \$12,000. The C. P. R. Company is now laying a siding for the convenience of shippers. Mr. Edwards, of Regina, has just completed a telephoneline for the Farming Company from the C. P. R. station to the farm house, thence 1 1/2 miles to a cottage occupied by one of the foremen.  
 The wheat crop is looking very well, and a much larger yield is expected than last year. Some of the sections of the Bell Farm will certainly give a return of over the average, the wheat being now evenly and luxuriantly headed out. Potatoes and roots are not looking as well as could be wished, and gardens generally are very backward.  
 The Indians on the neighboring reserves are very quiet and orderly. Col. Macdonald, agent, will begin paying annuities to Piapot's band next week, and continue through all the reserves in treaty 4.



1884 – no specific date – Dept. of Agriculture, in 1886 Report- , p. 101 *A Guide Book Containing Information for Intending Settlers* –**NOTE** - location of Bell Farm cottage in groups of four

#### DISTRICT OF ASSINIBOIA.

This district comprises an area of about 95,000 square miles. It is bounded on the south by the International boundary line, on the east by the western boundary of Manitoba, on the north by the 9th Correction line of the Dominion Lands System of Survey into Townships, which is near the 52nd parallel of latitude. On the west it is bounded by the line dividing the 10th and 11th Ranges of Townships west of the 4th initial meridian of the Dominion Lands Survey.

The Valley of the Qu'Appelle is in the District of Assiniboia, being on the second plateau or steppe of the continent, reaching from Red River to the Rocky Mountains. This valley is a favoured part of the North-West, and settlement in it is proceeding with surprising rapidity. The Dominion Government has an immigrant station at Troy, and this district has been selected for the large farming experiment known as the "Bell Farm." This scheme has features which have interest beyond a simple private enterprise on a very large scale. The experiment embraces a scheme of a wheat farm of a hundred square miles, or 64,000 acres, but so divided as to make it also a colonizing scheme, the intention being to sell the whole out to the workers after a few years' operations. A section of one square mile of 640 acres is divided into three equal portions of about 213 acres, and the cultivation of this third of a section is placed in the hands of one man. Comfortable houses and stables are built at the corners of these third sections in such way that four houses and four stables come together, making, as it were, a little village on the road allowance. A man and his team are able to cultivate two-thirds of this apportionment, leaving one-third fallow every year, thus leaving the whole fallow once in three years, as well for recuperation as to destroy weeds, some kinds of which are apt, with the best cultivation, to make their appearance in wheat. The harvesting is done by the self-binder, and the threshing by the powerful steam machinery of the farm. The work is thoroughly systematized; and the whole of the buildings were about to be connected by telephone shortly after the writer of these lines left this farm a few months ago. The average crop of wheat in 1873 was 21 bushels to the acre, much of this grown on the first turning of the sod. The yield in 1884 was very bountiful, and much over that of the previous year. In order to save teaming very large weights of wheat, it is put in large wooden

218 kb

**Note:** 1873 reference above is a typo error, should be 1883

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#### DOMINION OF CANADA.

tanks or receivers spread over the farm, as it comes from the powerful steam threshers which are used. The wheat produced is of the very highest quality, and often weighs 65 lbs. to the bushel. Comparatively high wages (£84 stg. a year) are paid to the men employed, and each has a house and one acre of ground, rent free. These uniform arrangements, and division of men and horses at equal points over the immense area of the farm, with just as much placed under one man's charge as he can comfortably manage, so simplifies the control of the whole as to place it under easy command from the centre of operations. The point of greatest attention of all is bestowed upon the care and feeding of the horses, as the source of motive power for the farming operations. The horses are, however, worked to their capacity. It seems to follow naturally that the men who work these good sized farms of 213 acres, and who are highly paid, and made as comfortable as possible, would embrace the opportunity that is to be offered them of becoming possessors of them; the whole scheme thus melting into one of uniform colonization of a hundred square miles. Major Bell is the able projector and manager; and the scheme so far is reported to be largely pecuniarily successful.

125 kb

1884 – July 22 – *Winnipeg Free Press* –

“Mr. Edwards, of Regina, has just completed a telephone system for the Farming Company from the C.P. R. station to the farm house, thence 1½ miles to a cottage occupied by one of the foremen.”

The following illustration shows this telephone line:



318 kb

Source: Feb 1885 *Farmer's Advocate* (Vol 20, No 230).

1884 – Auntie Martin and Lieut. Gov Dewdney visit – gopher supper

1884 – Visit of Notman photographers from Montreal – take a number of Bell Farm photos

1884 – August 8 – Dept., of the Interior Annual Report for 1884, Part 1, P. 7.

H.H. Smith and J. McD. Gordon, Dominion Lands Office Inspectors, visit Bell Farm to deal with the squatters' issue, and signed the newly-delivered Bell Farm Visitors Register, # 8 & 9 respectively.

“I then went to Indian Head in company with J. McD. Gordon, for the purpose of assisting him in the disposition of the claims of certain squatters on the Bell Farm.”



1884 – Aug. 14 – *Regina Leader*, p. 4 - Notice to Squatters – to meet at Bell Farm

**“Important to Squatters.** Messrs. Taylor M.P. for South Leeds and Wood M.P. for Brockville, the Arbitrators appointed to adjust the matters in dispute with the Squatters on the Bell Farm have arrived there. Mr. W.H. Stevenson, Dominion Land Agent for Regina, who has received instructions from the Dominion Government to hold himself in readiness to proceed, immediately on receiving intimation by telegram, to the Bell Farm, to meet the Arbitrators and to take with him all files, maps and other papers necessary, to place himself at their disposal and facilitate in every way the work they go there to accomplish, proceeded there by Tuesday evening train.”

1884 – Aug. 16 – *Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 2 – NWT Council debates establishment of Bell Farm and squatters’ rights

“Moved by Mr. White, seconded by Mr. Jackson, in amendment to the motion of Mr. Ross in reference to the settlers in the Moose Jaw, Regina and Indian Head reserves, “ That the lands in the three reserves mentioned were reserved for homestead entry in 1882; that an unsuccessful attempt had been made to settle the claims of the Regina reserve settlers, no attempt had been made to settle those of the Moose Jaw settlers, and no settlement had been arrived at with the **Bell Farm** settlers; that the delay in recognizing their claims entails hardship upon those settlers; that they, being pioneers, should be treated at least equally as well as later settlers elsewhere; that the settlers \_\_\_\_\_ to enter inter possession before the withdrawal of the land from homesteading; that the delay in settlement of the claims is injuring the towns of Moose Jaw and Regina; that a course by which actual settlers are given to understand that they have no rights which the government is bound to respect, is injurious to immigration and the welfare of the country; that a memorial should be sent through the executive council urging the minister of the interior to at once recognize the full claims of all bona fide settlers on the Regina and Moose Jaw reserves; that the executive memorialize the Dominion Government to so extend the sections of the land set showing non-resident homesteading so that a homesteader may reside anywhere in the township or adjoining township in cases where he has relatives therein.”  
Amendment not voted upon.”

1884 – ca. August 20 – Prof. Tanner visits the Bell Farm and signs the Bell Farm Visitors Register (#69) – mentions in a later report for the Albany Settlement that it took Bell five weeks to travel from Brandon to Indian Head in 1882.

1884 – August 20 – Letter from former Prime Minister Sir Alexander Mackenzie to his daughter Mary, on visit to Bell Farm with his wife Jane

“When we reached the Bell Farm, we saw two fields of wheat, one of 1,280 acres, and one of 1,000 acres, and a flax field of 500 acres. They have 25 reapers, 170 horses, and other farm “rolling stock” in proportion. Late in the evening we got to our car again, after a very pleasant ten days’ ride, part of which the heat spoiled, and part was rendered almost intolerable by a cloud of winged ants, which enveloped us and found a lodging in our clothes and down our necks. They sting exactly like a newly-kindled match applied to the skin.”

Source: “*The Honourable Alexander Mackenzie: His Life and Times*”, by William Buckingham and George W. Ross, 1892, p. 610.

## 1884 – August - Visitor's Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
1	August 8, 1884	Adelbert Anson Bishop of Assiniboia	Regina	Saskatchewan – 1 <sup>st</sup> Anglican Bishop of Qu'Appelle (originally called Assiniboia)
2	No Entry	No Entry	No Entry	No Entry
3	"	John Grisdale Dean of Rupertsland	Winnipeg	Manitoba – later 3 <sup>rd</sup> Anglican Bishop of Qu'Appelle
4	No Entry	No Entry	No Entry	No Entry
5	"	D. Lewis	Fort Qu'Appelle	Saskatchewan
6	"	Major Lloyd <i>Austruther .....</i>	England	
7	"	F. Lloyd <i>Austruther</i>	Portage la Prairie	Manitoba
8	August 8, 1884	H.H. Smith	Winnipeg	Manitoba – Henry Hall Smith (b. 1867) was a lawyer, the Commissioner of Dominion Lands, and a member of the Dominion Lands Board in Winnipeg. Also inspector for Dominion Lands, with J.M. Gordon on this visit
9		J. McD. Gordon	Calgary	Alberta – Dominion Lands Agent Ref: Dept. of Interior Sessional Papers, 1884 John MacDonald Gordon, Dominion land agent (promoted to Inspector of Dominion Lands Agencies 1885) With H.H. Smith on this visit.
10		Dr. <i>Shaver</i>	Stratford	England or Ontario?
11		W. Kirkland	Indian Head	Saskatchewan
12		E. Dewdney	Regina	Saskatchewan – Edgar Dewdney - Lieut. Gov. of the North-West Territories
13		J. Dewdney	Regina ?	Residence not listed – Jane Dewdney - wife of Edgar Dewdney
14		R. Sykes	Edgeley, Cheshire	Richard Sykes and his brother Arthur (next entry), both of Cheshire, England, established and owned Edgeley Farm, north of Maclean. It was their farm manager's wife who was instrumental in building Vernon Church. According to the June 11, 1886 Qu'Appelle Progress, R Sykes and his wife visited the farm at that time.
15		Arthur H. Sykes	Edgeley, Cheshire	Brother of Richard Sykes.
16		G. Pritchard-Rayner	Trescawen, Anglesey, N. Wales	George Pritchard-Rayner was a retired officer of the 5th Dragoon Guards and Master of the Anglesey Harriers.
17		H. Keith	Indian Head	Saskatchewan
18	August 12, 1884	H.M. Hargreaves	Oakhurst, <i>Westhroughton</i>	
19	August 12, 1884	H.E. Pearson	Southport	
20		Alfred Pegler, British Association	Southampton, England	Member of the British Association
21		Josiah Thorp, British Association	Holmfirth, England	

22		John Flood	Brockville, Ontario	Member of Parliament for Brockville: Ref. Ed Morgan History, p. 49
23	August 14, 1884	Augustes E. <i>Mornewicke</i>	Winnipeg	Manitoba
24		Alexander MacArthur	Winnipeg	Manitoba: A Winnipeg general merchant, Alex helped found the Manitoba Historical and Scientific Society.
25		May MacArthur	Winnipeg	Manitoba Wife of Alexander MacArthur. Died within a week of her toddler son, Ian's passing
26		Ian Alister MacArthur	Winnipeg	Manitoba Toddler son of Alexander and May MacArthur. Died January 13 1886 ,3 years and 6 months.
27		David Macarthur	Winnipeg	Manitoba Young son of Alexander and May MacArthur
28		Robert Crawford	Indian Head	Saskatchewan – probably merchant; member of NWT Council; died 1897 – Ref: p. 332, Indian Head History. An investor in the Bell Farm
29		<i>W.R.</i> Robertson	Indian Head	Saskatchewan
30		D. <i>Malcolmson</i>	Winnipeg	Manitoba
31		H. J. Eberts	Winnipeg	Manitoba – Hermann Eberts was a member of the Bell Farm investors & Sec. Treasurer, Ref: p. 62, Indian Head History; same as # 165
32		W.N. <i>Shillicoine</i>	England	
Page 2				
33	August 15, 1884	James Glaisher, F.R.S.	Blackheath	James Glaisher, a good friend of James Douglas, was a renowned meteorologist and aeronaut (balloonist) who visited the Bell Farm with the British Association.
34	“	Jason Douglas <i>...ut 68</i>	Dulwich, Surrey	A British civil engineer and renowned lighthouse designer, Jason (James Nicholas) Douglas visited the Bell Farm on Aug. 15, 1884 along with his family and a dozen other dignitaries.
35	“	Lady Douglas	<i>Sellay</i> House	Wife of James Douglas
36	“	<i>Neil</i> Douglas	<i>Sellay</i> House	
37	“	Geo. Russell	Plymouth, England	
38	“	Ellen Russell	Plymouth, England	
39	“	John Carson	Belfast, Ireland	
40	“	J. Viriamu Jones	Univ. Coll. Cardiff	Viriamu Jones, a British Association delegate, was a physicist and First Principal of the University College of South Wales at Cardiff. As a member of the Association, Jones visited the Bell Farm with his wife Sarah Katharine (Willis) Jones on August 15, 1884.
41	“	Mrs. Viriamu Jones	Univ. Coll. Cardiff	Wife of Viriamu Jones
42	“	Hector Cameron, M.P.	Toronto	Ontario – Conservative Member of Parliament
43	“	Mrs. Hector Cameron	Toronto	Ontario: Mrs. Clara [Boswell] Cameron was the wife of Hector Cameron, Member of Parliament.
44	“	A.A. <i>Prankerd</i>	Trinity College, Oxford, London	
45	“	W. Burton	<i>G.....</i> , England	Injured in accident on the Bell Farm
46	“	Bedford Pim, Captain, R.N.	United Service Club	Bedford Clapperton Trevelyn Pim - Captain Bedford Pim was a naval officer (raised to the rank of rear-admiral on the retired list in 1885) and a barrister. Pim was responsible for proposing the 1884 visit of the British Association to Canada.
47	No Entry	No Entry	No Entry	No Entry

48		R. Myers	India, <i>...etta</i>	Saskatchewan
49		B.H. Buxton	Sedgwick City, Kansas	Same as # 211
50	August 19, 1884	Joseph Grose Colmer	Canadian Gov't Officer, London, England	In 1884, Joseph Grose Colmer was the Secretary to the Canadian High Commissioner (Charles Tupper) in London.
51		T.J. Demers	Montana	U.S.A.: Telesphore Jacque "T.J" Demers was a prominent merchant and cattleman (Detroit and Montana Cattle Company) who founded Demersville, Montana.
52	August 20, 1884	W. McGirr	Regina	Saskatchewan William McGirr was born in Russell County, Ontario and came to Regina in the Fall of 1881, where he began work as a Clerk in the Indian Department of the North-West Territorial government. (See John Powers' 1887 History of Regina for more details on McGirr)
53		Geo. P. Welsh	Regina	Saskatchewan
54		Major Patrick George Craigie	<i>Liet. Cent. Ch of Up., Arundel, Sr. Strand, London, W.</i>	Major P.G. Craigie was the Secretary of the Central Chamber of Agriculture and later the President of the Royal Statistical Society.
55		Robert Miller Christy	Chignal St. James, near Chelmsford, Essex	Robert Miller Christy was an Essex naturalist and author who made several trips to Manitoba and wrote about the Bell Farm in one of his accounts of prairie life. (First visited on July 10, 1884 en route from Winnipeg to Medicine Hat; then again during the return trip - on Aug. 20, 1884 )
56	No Entry	No Entry	No Entry	No Entry
57		Matt. Ryan	Winnipeg	Manitoba
58		Andrew MacLean	Manitoba College	Manitoba
59		A. MacTavish	Indian Head	Saskatchewan
60 a & b		Mr. & Mrs. A. Mackenzie	Toronto	Ontario: Jane (nee Sym) Mackenzie visited the Bell Farm with her husband Alexander Mackenzie, Canadian Prime Minister from 1873-1878. Alexander Mackenzie (1822-1892) was a Scottish stonemason, who went on to become a newspaper editor (1852-1854 <i>Lambton Shield</i> ). He entered politics in 1861 and served as Prime Minister of Canada from 1873 to 1878. Mackenzie visited the Bell Farm with his second wife, Jane, during a trip to see the Rocky Mountains in August 1884.
61		Edith Brown	Toronto	Ontario
62		John Henry Fairbank	Petrolia, Ontario	J.H. Fairbank was a banker and in his time was the top producer of crude oil in Canada. Fairbank preceded Alexander Mackenzie as the MP for the federal riding of Lambton. John Henry Fairbank (1831-1914) was an Ontario banker and in his time was the top producer of crude oil in Canada. Fairbank succeeded former Prime Minister Alexander Mackenzie as the MP for the federal riding of Lambton.
63 a & b		Wm. & Mrs. Henderson	Qu'Appelle	Saskatchewan – possibly the architect by that name. William Henderson (1837 - 1931) was a Scottish architect with the federal Department of Public Works (DPW). He married Mary Jane Smith in 1862, and the family moved to Canada in 1872, where Henderson began work with DPW.
64		Cha. Mackenzie	Sarnia, Ontario	
Page 3				

65		Mrs. M.R. Mackenzie	Qu'Appelle	Saskatchewan
66		Angus McKay	Indian Head	Saskatchewan – founding director of the Dominion Experimental Farm at Indian Head. Ref; p. 535 Indian Head History
67		James Harvey	Indian Head	Saskatchewan – operated first grain mill at Indian Head; Ref: p. 434, Indian Head History
68	x	Leonard Dodsworth	St. Leonard's Club, York	
69		Henry Tanner, M.R.A.C.	London	From South Kensington; slated to teach farming at the proposed college at Indian Head; Ref. Ed Morgan History, p. 51; same as # 187 & 247. He was also involved with Lord Brassey's Church Colonization Society east of Qu'Appelle, and Brassey's Alliance and Sunbeam farms near Indian Head MRAC stands for Member of the Royal Agricultural College. Professor Tanner was the first diploma student at Cirencester Royal Agricultural College - his name appears on a plaque in the college's dining hall.
70		..... Steven	Winnipeg	Manitoba
71		Robert Manning	Winnipeg	Manitoba: Robert Manning (1856-1920) was a Winnipeg merchant. He was the founder of the Manning and Company Bank as well as the Western Coal Company. He visited the Bell Farm on August 20, 1884
72		Alex Haggart	Winnipeg	Manitoba: Alexander Haggart was a Lawyer, judge, MP (1908-1911), MP (1911-1917). Born at Peterborough, Ontario on 29 January 1848, son of Archibald and Elizabeth Haggart, he was educated at Victoria University (Cobourg, Ontario). He commenced the practice of law at Toronto, in 1877. He came to Winnipeg in 1880 and became the law partner of Hugh John Macdonald and A. C. Killam.
73		.....	Winnipeg	Manitoba – similar to # 91
74		Thomas H. Taylor	Chatham, Ontario	
75		???... Stephenson	Winnipeg	Manitoba
76		Goldwin Smith	Toronto	Ontario: Prolific British-Canadian political commentator and writer. Editor of the Canadian Monthly, Goldwin Smith Hall' at Cornell University is named for him. Professor Smith left Winnipeg for the Bell Farm on the morning of Aug. 27, 1884 – Ref: Wpg. Daily Sun, p. 1.
77		W. Jackson	Fort Qu'Appelle	Saskatchewan
78		...???.....lay	Fort Qu'Appelle	Saskatchewan
79	August 29, 1884	Rufus Stephenson	Chatham, Ontario	
80	August 30, 1884	Hector L. Langevin	Ottawa	Ontario – federal Minister of Public Works 1879-91. Ref: Canadian Encyclopedia
81		Camile ... (Emmanuel St. Onge?) Chapleau	Regina	Saskatchewan
82		H.L. Langevin		Son of Hector L. Langevin: <a href="https://advitam.banq.qc.ca/notice/299268">https://advitam.banq.qc.ca/notice/299268</a> : 1861-1897
83		William Henderson	Qu'Appelle	Saskatchewan – same signature as # 63 William Henderson (1837 - 1931) was a Scottish architect with the federal Department of Public Works (DPW). He married Mary Jane Smith in 1862, and the family moved to Canada in 1872, where Henderson began work with DPW.
84		M. Zendord	Regina	Saskatchewan – contractor and billiard Hall operator Ref: History of Regina, 1887, p.14 & 28
85		E.F.E. Roy	Ottawa	Elzebert Francois Edouard Roy was the private secretary of Sir Hector Langevin.

1884 – August \_\_\_\_\_ - Prof. Tanner's visits and reports on the Bell Farm

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On reaching Toronto, I proceeded to the North-west by the Lake route, and my first visit of inspection was paid to

THE BELL FARM.

However impressive a visit to this farm may be to a stranger, I am free to confess that its magnitude impresses the mind still more fully during subsequent inspections. It is very difficult to realize clearly on the mind what it is to drive for twenty miles through crops of wheat, oats, and flax, extending as far as the eye can reach. One piece of wheat we carefully examined measured 1500 acres. It had been sown in two days, and at the time of my visit much of it carried thirty-five bushels per acre of magnificent wheat, which under the bright Canadian sun waved like a golden sea. The working power on the farm consisted of 180 horses and 130 men, these, with 50 self-binding reapers, represented a power to cut, bind, and stook 800 acres per day, each binder cutting 16 acres daily. This power is so arranged that within twelve days the whole of the wheat and oats can be cut, and the spring sowing of the wheat and oats was also arranged so that it could be completed in ten days. It appears almost fabulous to talk of 800 or 1,000 acres of wheat being sown on a single day, and yet this only represents what was done on this farm in the spring of 1884. Every farmer will see the great advantages which must result from the spring sowing being promptly completed. There is one level start, the growth is even throughout, and the ripening is likely to follow with equal regularity.

We drove out to see the hay-making arrangements, which were being carried on whilst they were waiting for the corn to be ready for harvesting, and here we found from 1200 to 1400 tons of hay being secured. Here, again, the work was simplicity itself, for the natural grass of certain parts of the unbroken prairie having been cut by mowing machines, was allowed to lie on the surface—on the average four or five hours—and then the horse rakes gathered it for the m... load on the waggons and send to the stack. In making the hay-ricks, care was taken to shape the top into a roof-like form, which would throw off the rain without the expense of thatching. A small loss is occasionally made consequent upon defective protection, but that loss is unworthy of consideration in comparison with the large expenditure for thatching, which is avoided.

In the regulation of this great undertaking, there is a rigid discipline observed. An order being given, it must be performed, for its neglect entails dismissal. Without this—almost military—

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regularity, confusion would soon reign, and good management would be an impossibility. Major Bell, from day to day, inspects the operations going on upon the farm, and is now aided by one general foreman and four foremen of sections. At eight o'clock in the evening all gather to the telephone, which extends from Major Bell's residence into each of the four sections of the farm. The orders are then given to each sectional foreman, in the hearing of the others. Any doubt is at once cleared up, and all retire to rest subsequently with full instructions for the morrow. No change is permitted without authority from headquarters, which, by the aid of the telephone, is always obtainable, in case of necessity, by night or day.

The colonisation scheme now being carried out by Major Bell possesses one marked peculiarity, for the area of the farm represents 64,000 acres, or 100 square miles, the whole of which lies within its own continuous boundary. There is no intervening land, except one square mile given up for the town of Indian Head, and for the line of railway which passes through the centre of the farm. In May, 1882, Major Bell had free scope for the selection of this unbroken block of land. It was then 200 miles from the nearest railway station. It is a curious fact, illustrative of the rapid development of the Canadian North-West, that his men and teams, with their various requirements for establishing themselves on the selected lands, took five weeks in journeying from Brandon to their destination; and yet within one month of their arrival there, Major Bell went back to Winnipeg in a sleeping car on the Canadian Pacific Railway.

THE QU'APPELLE VALLEY LANDS.

After completing my inspection of the Bell Farm, I proceeded to see the lands which are associated with the lovely valley of the Qu'Appelle River. The name has no doubt been given to it in consequence of its frequent "echoes," and the reply, qu'appelle (who calls?), suggests the natural result of many an amusing incident. On the first day I drove through the fertile lands east and north of the Bell Farm, reaching Fort Qu'Appelle in the evening. We first passed through the Pheasant Plains, which are remarkable for their productive powers and great agricultural capabilities. I visited here some skilful and enterprising farmers who had come up there from Ontario, and who had secured a well-deserved success. Messrs. McRae and Williamson had selected a fine tract of land, well adapted for mixed farming, and here [on August 28th, 1884] the harvest was in full swing, and the average yield of wheat was not less than 35 bushels per acre, whilst on 300 acres there were fully

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40 bushels per acre. This larger produce was in some measure due to the system of tillage. Major Bell considers it most economical to break the prairie thin—say three inches—and leave the turf thus ploughed up exposed to the winter frost, so that it can be shaken to pieces in the spring by the agitating harrows going before the sower. On the other hand the more usual practice is to "break" the land as already stated, and after two or three months, when the turf appears to be dead and ready to crumble, the turf and two or three inches of soil are "back-set" by the plough and allowed to lie for the winter. Major Bell appears to admit the fact of this better cultivation being often preferable, but claims that it does not suit his arrangements at the Bell Farm. In any case the more complete tillage in the present instance contributed to an earlier harvest and a larger produce per acre.

Dealing as we are in these matters of finance with most important interests, and it may be for the welfare and happiness of many, I have thought it desirable to check these statements by information obtained from another source. Through the kindness of Major

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W. R. Bell, of The Bell Farm, whose knowledge of the Canadian North west ranks very high, I have been supplied with his statement of the expenditure which may be advantageously made by a gentleman in occupying 200 acres of good land, assuming that 50 acres are brought under crop in the first year, 140 acres in the second, and 190 acres in the third year. His farm expenditure is—as in the previous instances A, B, and C—kept independent of household expenditure, and any purchase of land.

FARM D.

EXPENDITURE IN FIRST YEAR.		£	s.	d.	
3 Horses and Harness	...	120	0	0	
Head Plough	...	5	0	0	
Harrow	...	7	0	0	
Waggon	...	16	0	0	
Seeder	...	10	0	0	
Self-binding Reaper	...	50	0	0	
Backboard	...	10	0	0	
Sleigh	...	7	0	0	
Cow	...	14	0	0	
Labour—1 Man 1 Year	...	60	0	0	
Extra Man Harvest, 2 months	...	12	0	0	
60 Bushels Seed, Wheat (50 acres)	...	15	0	0	
25 " " Oats (5 acres)	...	2	0	0	
Potatoes for Planting, 1 acre	...	2	8	0	
Thrashing 1500 Bushels	...	15	0	0	
Oats and Hay for Horses	...	20	0	0	
		368	8	0	
Cottage and Farm Buildings	...	300	0	0	
		£	668	8	0

EXPENDITURE IN SECOND YEAR.		£	s.	d.	
Labour—1 Man and 1 Boy	...	64	0	0	
Extra Man, 6 months	...	26	0	0	
200 bushels Seed Wheat, at 80 cents per bushel	...	22	0	0	
Seed Oats and Feed Oats	...	36	0	0	
Hay	...	15	0	0	
Thrashing 4,000 bushels, at 1 cent per bushel	...	40	0	0	
Twice for Binder	...	7	0	0	
Contingencies	...	20	0	0	
		£	270	0	0

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EXPENDITURE IN THIRD YEAR.		£	s.	d.	
Outlay as in Second Year	...	270	0	0	
Extra Cost of Thrashing	...	12	8	0	
		£	282	8	0

We may now bring these statements of expenditure into contact with the receipts for the same period.

EXPENDITURE.		RECEIPTS.		
	£	s.	d.	
First Year :—				
As per statement	665	8	0	
Second Year :—				
As per statement	270	0	0	
Third Year :—				
As per statement	282	8	0	
Excess of Receipts over Expenditure	378	4	0	
	£	1596	0	0
First Year :—				
1000 bushels wheat, at 80 cents per bush.		100	0	0
350 bushels oats at 40 cents per bushel		36	0	0
Second Year :—				
3500 bushels wheat, at 80 cents per bushel		500	0	0
500 bushels oats, at 40 cents per bushel		40	0	0
Third Year :—				
4750 bushels wheat, at 80 cents per bushel		700	0	0
500 bushels oats, at 40 cents per bushel		40	0	0
	£	1596	0	0

Major Bell calculates that after the third year, although the capital invested upon the farm has been re-paid, the annual receipts and expenditure may be calculated upon as in the third year, showing a clear annual profit of over £500. Results such as these are far too important to be passed without applying to them even a further test, and I have therefore taken the data given in connection with Farms A, B, and C, so as to place them in contrast with each other as well as with the Farm D.

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FARM A.

EXPENDITURE.		RECEIPTS.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
First and Second Year	634 12 0	Second Year ... ..	520 0 0
Third Year ... ..	290 0 0	Third Year ... ..	520 0 0
Receipts in excess ...	142 8 0		
	£ 1000 0 0		£ 1040 0 0

FARM B.

EXPENDITURE.		RECEIPTS.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
First and Second Year	1220 0 0	Second Year ... ..	1000 0 0
Third Year ... ..	520 0 0	Third Year ... ..	1000 0 0
Receipts in excess ...	340 0 0		
	£ 2080 0 0		£ 2000 0 0

FARM C.

EXPENDITURE.		RECEIPTS.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
First and Second Year	2772 4 0	Second Year ... ..	2000 0 0
Third Year ... ..	1040 0 0	Third Year ... ..	2000 0 0
Receipts in excess ...	347 16 0		
	£ 4160 0 0		£ 4000 0 0

Thus in each and all of these cases, in which there was sufficient capital at command, we have a very satisfactory uniformity in the general results, which goes far to explain the immense success which is commonly observed in Canadian farming when a proper amount of capital is employed. These results closely confirm the statements made in my previous Report, in which, after referring to some excellent farms around Brandon, I said:—"In all these cases the profits on two years' cropping would repay the purchase of the property and also the outlay for the improvements."



# 1884 – British Association Tour Visitors (revised: 21 January 2021)

27 Aug, 1884 – List of Tour Members: in Montreal before Western Tour - *Winnipeg Daily Sun*

## BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

GRAND GATHERING IN MONTREAL.  
TODAY.

Address of the President—The Programme  
of the Meeting.

[Special to the Winnipeg Daily Sun.]

MONTREAL, Aug. 27.—The annual meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science opened to-day.

There are some seven hundred delegates, including many leading scientists. The officers are: President—The Right Hon. Lord Rayleigh, M.A., D.C.L., F.R.S., F.R.A.S., F.R.G.S., Professor of Experimental Physics in the University of Cambridge. Vice-President—His Excellency the Governor-General of Canada, G.C.M.G.; the Right Hon. Sir John Alexander Macdonald, K.C.B., D.C.L.; the Right Hon. Sir Lyon Playfair, K.C.B., Ph.D., LL.D., M.P., F.R.S.L. and E., F.C.S.; the Hon. Sir Alexander Tilloch Galt, G.C.M.G.; the Hon. Sir Charles Tupper, K.C.M.G.; Sir A. A. Dorion, C.M.G.; the Hon. Dr. Chauveau; Principal J. W. Dawson, C.M.G., M.A., LL.D., F.R.S., F.G.S.; Professor Edward Frankland, M.D., D.C.L., Ph.D., F.R.S., F.C.S.; W. H. Hingston, Esq., M.D.; Thomas Sterry Hunt, Esq., M.A., D.Sc., LL.D., F.R.S. General Treasurer—Professor A. W. Williamson, Ph.D., LL.D., F.R.S., V.P.C.S., University College, London, W.C. (Professor Williamson will be represented at Montreal by Admiral Sir Erasmus Ommanney, C.B., F.R.S., F.R.A.S., F.R.G.S. General Secretaries—Captain Douglas Galton, C.B., D.C.L., F.R.S., F.L.S., F.G.S., F.R.G.S.; A. G. Vernon Harcourt, Esq., M.A., F.R.S., F.C.S. Secretary—Professor T. G. Bonney, D. Sc., F.R.S., F.S.A., Pres. G. S. Local secre-

aries for the meeting at Montreal—S. E. Daxson, Esq., S. Rivard, Esq., S. C. Stevenson, Esq., Thomas White, Esq., M.P. Local treasurer for the meeting at Montreal—F. Wolferstan Thomas, Esq. The proceedings opened at 8 a. m. to-day, when in the absence of Professor Cayley, Sir William Thomson, the celebrated electrician, opened the meeting. Among the most important of his contributions to the advancement of electrical science are the construction of several beautiful instruments and their application to the study of atmospheric electricity. It is in connection with submarine telegraphy, however, that Sir William Thomson's labors in electrical science are best known. He is the inventor of the mirror-galvanometer and the siphon-recorder, which, owing to their extreme delicacy, can be worked by very low battery power—a circumstance that tends greatly to the preservation of the cables. To the science of magnetism Sir William Thomson has made valuable additions, and has also shown his wonderful power in the investigations into the nature of heat. On the successful completion of the Atlantic cable in 1866 he received the honor of knighthood, and was presented with the freedom of the city of Glasgow. He is a very fine appearing man. The president-elect, Lord Raleigh, afterwards took the chair. He is perhaps better known to many as the Hon. Mr. Strutt, and is a very eminent man in the higher mathematics and physics. His reputation has, perhaps, not been a popular one, but among students is of the very highest in these branches of science. He is professor of experimental physics in the University of Cambridge. His address was delivered in a scholarly way, and was not noticeable for any particularly eloquent passages. His allusion to the pleasure felt at meeting in Montreal, the great commercial metropolis of Canada, was heartily applauded. Not much formal business will be done to-day, the proceedings being rather of a preliminary character. The civic programme for the entertainment of the guests is on a very large scale.

1884 – Sept. 10 - British Association - Winnipeg to Brandon

## BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

### The Excursionists Arrive Early this Morning.

#### Some Interesting Notes Respecting The Progress of the Association – The List of Excursionists.

The excursion party of the members of the British Association, which left Toronto for the Rockies on the 6th, arrived here about three o'clock this morning, and pushed on to Brandon without stoppage. The party will breakfast at Brandon. Only a comparatively small portion of the members of the Association are included in the party, but it is understood that the C. P. R. Company have granted free transportation as far as the Rockies till the end of the month to all those who may choose to avail themselves of the privilege by the regular trains. The excursion train consisted of eight sleeping cars. Among those who arrived this morning are:—

The Earl of Ross, Sir Richard Temple, Sir Erasmus Ommanney, Mr. Mark Whitwell, Mr. C. Le Nave Foster, Major-Gen. Lawrie, Prof. R. S. Ball, Rev. Gavin Lang, Dr. William Wood, Mr. S. Bourne, Mr. T. R. Polwhell, Mr. R. A. Robinson, Prof. A. W. Scott, Mr. W. Morris Bunsford, Dr. Henry Boens, Mr. W. Barnard, Mr. John Robbins, Rev. A. Joyce, Mr. Henry Marsh, Mr. Thomas Kingston,

Henry Marsh, Mr. Thomas Kingston, Mr. O. F. Jones, Mr. Thomas Hart, Mr. G. W. Bloxham, Rev. Harry Jones, Mr. H. J. Morton, Mr. G. P. Hughes, Prof. W. Freese, Mr. J. P. Sheldon, Mr. John Lush, Mr. E. Farnworth, Mr. A. Tate, Dr. W. Boyd Dawkins, Rev. H. A. Pickard, Mr. Geo. Chatterton, Mr. C. C. Lush, Mr. Jas. Dillon, Mr. R. A. Robinson, Mr. W. H. Lush, Mr. W. Unwin, Mr. W. Barnard, Mr. S. Bourne, Mr. Hugo H. Meulier, Mr. F. Hovenden, Dr. Peter Royle, Mr. Isaac, Aabo, Hon. C. W. Freemantle, Prof. Chandler Roberts, Mr. C. A. Buckmaster, Mr. H. B. Dixon, Dr. G. E. Dohson, Mr. W. L. Selator, Mr. A. W. Bennett, Dr. W. R. McNab, Mr. R. M. Barrington, Mr. Hy. J. Mennell, Rev. W. H. Winwood, Mr. H. Bauerman, Prof. W. J. Sollas, Mr. A. B. Wynne, Mr. W. Whitaker, Mr. W. Topley, Mr. A. S. Reid, Mr. Matthew Blair, Mr. G. H. Kivahan, Mr. R. G. Symes, Mr. G. B. Longstaffe, Dr. P. L. Selator, Dr. Ed. Frankland, Dr. W. B. Cheudle, Mr. Egbert de Hamel, Mr. W. Hurst, Mr. G. S. Turner, Mr. Hy. Borna, Dr. Selwyn, Mr. H. Brugge, Prof. Macoun, Dr. G. M. Dawson, Mr. A. Desjardins, Mr. J. D. Crawford, the Bishop of Ontario, Mr. Alfred Kinnear, M. T. H. Stockwell, Mr. H. A. Calder, Mr. J. F. Taylor, Mr. J. A. W. Oliver, Mr. F. H. Thomas, Mr. E. B. Elliott, Mr. B. Williamson, Mr. W. A. Traill, Dr. Gilbert, Dr. W. H. Parke, jr., Mr. W. H. Parke, Mr. S. Macadam, Mr. William Thompson (Manchester), Mr. Swire Smith, Mr. D. A. Louis, Mr. H. S. Hale Shaw.

Also this list from R.L. Richardson in his book:

## THE TRIP TO THE ROCKIES.

The writer of this pamphlet, through the courtesy of Superintendent Egan, was fortunate enough to secure passage with the party, and for convenience of diction the narrative is continued in the first person plural. It was about five o'clock A.M. when we steamed out of the C.P.R. station and commenced our journey westward over the great fertile plains of Manitoba and the Northwest territories.

It may be as well at this stage to give a list of the gentlemen who comprised the party. It is as follows: Earl of Rosse, Sir Richard Temple, Major-General Laurie, Dr. Ashe, The Bishop of Ontario, Prof. J. P. Sheldon, Prof. Fream, Prof. B. Dawkins, Dr. Royle, Dr. W. P. Cheadle, Prof. H. Shaw, E. B. Elliott, Miss Winch, C. Calder, W. M. Beauford, A. S. Reid, G. Johnson, V. Kinahan, J. Symes, Professor J. Macoun, M. Rivard, G. Slater, R. C. Pilling, T. Hare, S. Bourne, A. Robertson, R. S. Broker, R. M. Barrington, A. Kinnear, H. M. Muller, E. Frankland, C. C. Prance, W. H. Pallows, M. Blair, A. W. Scott, H. Marsh, S. S. Turner, Prof. Macadam, G. Chatterton, G. P. Hughes, Miss Stalker, H. T. Menwell, A. W. Bennett, J. A. W. Oliver, W. A. Blackhouse, C. C. Leach, R. C. Brown, J. Cameron, C. Swanford, M. C. Clark, W. J. Sollas, Rev. H. H. Winwood, J. Robbins, Rev. H. A. Pickard, E. F. King, D. A. Louis, W. H. Leach, J. H. Handle, Rev. H. Swanzy, F. H. Stockwell, Dr. McNab, Edgbert de Hamel, J. Bcurdas, R. A. Robinson, H. Bowerman, H. Dubois, W. Hurst, A. D. Ottwell, S. E. Dobson, S. W. Blowman, J. Frewson, C. Lawrie, T. H. Thomas, W. H. Merritt, J. F. Taylor, C. H. Kelmand, S. McIntyre, A. Desjardines, G. B. Longstaff, W. H. Leach, W. Unwin, W. S. Fellow, E. Withers, S. F. Harmer, Mrs. M'Irie, F. W. Harmer, C. A. Hirshfelder, Dr. A. C. Maybury, O. Jones, M. Brown, E. Farnsworth, T. W. Newman, A. Traile, W. Brownhard, W. Topley, J. D.

Crawford, J. W. Leahy, B. Williamson, W. Whitaker, Rev. Canon Ellegood, E. W. Jollas, R. Hazzard, W. Anderson, Mrs. Anderson, George and Jasper Anderson, Grace and William Anderson, F. Fargeau, F. Cummings, M. Argue, C. M. Pitman, A. Tate, Rev. H. Jones. Mr. Alexander Begg, General Immigration Agent for the Canadian Pacific Railway at London, England, was also with the party, his object being to traverse the country and familiarize himself with its resources and most advantageous points, in order to possess himself of that information, which it is so essential for a gentleman occupying so important a position, to secure. Mr. Begg's office is No. 88 Cannon Street, London, where he can be seen or reached by communication. He is always ready to give any information in his possession regarding the country, as he is always possessed of the latest information in reference thereto. It might be mentioned that besides the scientists, Dr. Thorburn and Miss Thorburn, of Toronto, also participated in the trip.

The train left Winnipeg at five o'clock in the morning and breakfast was secured at Carberry, a town one hundred miles west.

AT BRANDON.

17 September 1884 - List of Tour Members – *Montreal Gazette*: Toronto List - / Medicine Hat

[FROM OUR OWN REPORTER.]

MEDICINE HAT, N.W.T.,  
Thursday, 11th September, 1884. }

The limited party of about one hundred members of the British Association which left Toronto on Saturday, the 6th instant, on a special excursion to the Rocky Mountains, arrived in Winnipeg about three o'clock Wednesday morning last, and immediately passed on to the West after a very few minutes stoppage. Although only a limited number took this special trip, the C. P. R. have kindly offered during the present month to convey members of the British Association free to the end of their line, in order that they may have an opportunity of seeing the country. The following is the list of those who comprise this party of excursionists, as it left the City of Toronto last Saturday: The Right Hon. the Earl of Rosse, Sir Rich. Temple, Bart. Vice-Admiral Sir Erastus Onimoney, Major-General Laurie, Mr. Mark Whitwell, Mr. C. Leneve Foster, Prof. Robert Stawell Ball, Rev. Gavin Lang, Dr. Wm. Wood, Mr. S. Bourne, T. R. Powhall, R. A. Robinson, Prof. Robert H. Scott, W. M. Beaufort, Dr. Henry Boons, W. Barnard, J. P. Sheldon, Prof. W. Fream, G. P.

Hughes H. J. Morton, Rev. H. Jones, G. W. Bloxham, Thos. Hart, O. F. Jones, Thos. Kingston, Henry Marsh, Mr. R. M. Barrington, Henry J. Mennell, Rev. W. H. Winwood, H. Bauerman, Prof. W. J. Sollas, A. B. Wynne, W. Whittaker, W. Topley, A. S. Reid, M. Blair, G. H. Kinahan, R. G. Symes, G. B. Longstaffe, Dr. P. L. Selater, Dr. Ed. Frankland, Dr. W. B. Cheadle, Egbert d. Hamel, W. Hurst, G. S. Turner, Henry Borns, Dr. Selwyn, H. Bragge, Prof. Macoun, Dr. Geo. M. Dawson, A. Desjardins, Rev. A. Joyce, John Robbins, Mr. John Leach, E. Farnworth, A. Late, Dr. W. B. Dawkins, Rev. H. A. Pickard, Geo. Chatterton, C. C. Leach, Jas. Dillon, R. A. Robinson, W. H. Leachy, W. Unwin, Mr. W. Barnard, S. Bourne, H. H. Meulier, F. Hovenden, Dr. W. R. McNab, A. W. Bennett, Dr. G. F. Dobson, W. L. Selater, H. B. Dixon, C. A. Buckmaster, Prof. Chandler Roberts, Hon. C. W. Freemantle, Isaac Ashe, Dr. Peter Boyle, J. D. Crawford, Bishop of Ontario, Alfred Kinnear, M. T. Stockwell, H. A. Calder, J. F. Taylor, J. A. W. Oliver, H. S. Hele Shaw, D. A. Louis, S. Smith, Wm. Thompson, S. Macadam, W. H. Perkin, Dr. Perkin, Dr. Gilbert, W. A. Traill, B. Williamson, and a representative of the *Montreal GAZETTE*. Of the trip from

# British Association Tour – 1884 – Consolidated list – alphabetical

Note 1: Text in blue added from list reprinted from newspaper articles above.

Note 2: Some names may be duplicated due to inability to determine correct spelling.

Note 3: Names in yellow signed the Bell Farm Visitors Register

Note 4: Names marked with a double asterisk - \*\* - sailed on board the *PARISIAN* on Aug. 6, 1884

<b>A</b>	R.S. Broker,	Rev. Canon Ellegood,
Mrs. Anderson,	M. Brown,	Mr. E.B. Elliott,
George Anderson,	C. Brown,	<b>F</b>
Grace Anderson,	W. Brownshard,	F. Fargeau,
Jasper Anderson,	Mr. H. Brugge / Bragge	W.S. Fellow,
W. Anderson,	Mr. C.A. Buckmaster,	** Mr. C. Le Nuve Foster,
William Anderson,	<b>C</b>	Dr. Ed. Frankland,
M. Argue,	C. Calder,	Mr. E. Fransworth / Farnworth
Dr. Mr. Isaac Ashe,	Mr. H.A. Calder,	** Prof. W. Fream,
<b>B</b> The Bishop of Ontario	J. Cameron,	** Hon. C. W. Freemantle,
Prof. Robert Stadwell Ball,	** Mr. Geo. C. Chatterton,	J. Frewson,
Mr. W. Barnard,	Dr. W. (B.) P. Cheadle,	<b>G</b>
Mr. R.M. Barrington,	M.C. Clark,	** Dr. Gilbert. (& Mrs.)
Mr. H. Bauerman / Bowerman,	Mr. J.D. Crawford,	<b>H</b>
Mr. W. Morris Beauford /Beaufort	F. Cummings,	** Mr. Egbert de Hamel,
Alexander Begg, CPR	<b>D</b>	J.H. Handle,
Mr. A.W. Bennett,	** Prof. Dr. W. Boyd Dawkins,	Mr. Thomas Hare / Hart,
W.A. Blackhouse,	Gerard Finch Dawson	F.W. Harmer,
Mr. Matthew Blair,	Dr. G.M. Dawson,	S.F. Harmer,
S.W. Blowman,	Mr. A. Desjardines,	R. Hazzard,
** Mr. G.W. Bloxham,	Mr. Jas. Dillon,	C.A. Hirshfelder,
** Dr. Henry Bonns / Boons	Mr. H.B. Dixon,	Mr. F. Hovenden,
Henry Borns	Dr. G.E. Dobson,	Mr. G.P. Hughes,
Mr. Hy. Boras,	S.E. Donson,	** Mr. W. Hurst,
J. Bourdas,	H. Dubois,	<b>I</b>
Mr. Stephen Bourne,	<b>E</b>	No Entries

**J**

G. Johnson,

E.W. Jollas,

\*\* Rev. Harry Jones,

Mr. O.F. Jones,

\*\* Rev. A. C. Joyce, (&amp; Mrs.)

**K**

C.H. Kelmand,

V. Kinaham,

Mr. G.H. Kinalian / Kinahan

E.F. King,

Mr. Thomas Kingalon / Kingston

Mr. Alfred Kinnear,

**L**

Rev. Gavin Lang,

A. Late

Major General Laurie,

C. Lawrie,

Mr. C.C. Leach,

Mr. John Leach,

Mr. W.H. Leach / Leachy,

\*\* J.W. Leahby (Leaby)

Mr. G.(B.) H. Longstaffe,

Mr. D.A. Louis,

**M**

Mr. Prof. S. Macadam,

Professor J. Macoun,

Mr. Henry J. Mannell / Mennell

Mr. Henry Marsh,

Dr. A.C. Maybury,

S. McIntyre,

\*\* Dr. W.R. McNab,

H.T. Menwell,

W.H. Merritt,

Mrs. M'Illie,

Mr. H.J. Morton,

\*\* Mr. Hugo M. Muller (Maulier /  
H.H. Meulier)**N**

T.W. Newman,

**O**

Mr. J.A.W. Oliver,

\*\* Vice-Admiral Sir Erastus  
Oramanney (Ommanney),

A.D. Ottwell,

**P**

W.H. Pallows,

Mr. T.R. Palwhall,

\*\* Mr. W.H. Parkin / Perkin,

\*\* Dr. W.H. Parkin jr. / Perkin,

\*\* 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Rosse (Lawrence  
Parsons)

Alfred Pegler

Rev. H.A. Pickard,

R.C. Pilling,

C.M. Pitman,

T.R. Powhall,

C.C. Prance,

**Q**

No Entries

**R**

Mr. A.S. Reid,

M. Rivard,

Mr. John Robbins,

\*\* Prof. W. Chandler Roberts,

A. Robertson,

Mr. R.A. Robinson,

Dr. Peter Royle,

**S**

\*\* Dr. P.L. Sclater,

\*\* Mr. W.L. Sclater,

Prof. A.W. Scott,

Prof. Robert H. Scott

Dr. Selwyn,

Prof. H. Shaw,

\*\* Mr. H.S. Hale Shaw

\*\* Prof. J.P. Sheldon,

G. Slater,

Mr. Swire Smith,

\*\* Prof. W.J. Sollas,

Miss Stalker,

\*\* Mr. M.T.(F.)H. Stockwell,

C. Swanford,

Rev. H. Swanzy,

J. Symes,

Mr. R.G. Symes,

**T**

Mr. A. Tate,

Mr. J.F. Taylor,

Sir Richard Temple,

\*\* Mr. Thomas Henry Thomas,

\*\* Mr. William Thompson  
(Manchester)

Dr. Thorburn (of Toronto)

Miss Thorburn (of Toronto)

\*\* Mr. W. Topley,

Mr. W. A. Traile / Traill,

\*\* Mr. G.S.S. Turner,

**U**

Mr. W. Unwin,

V

W

\*\* [Mr. W. Whitaker / Whittaker](#),

[Mr. Mark Whitwall](#),

[Mr. B. Williamson](#),

Miss Winch,

\*\* Rev. [W. \(H.\) H. Winwood](#),

E. Withers,

[Dr. William Wood](#),

[Mr. A.B. Wynne](#),

X

No Entries

Y

No Entries

Z

No Entries

+++++

1884 – Thomas Henry Thomas, British Association member, report on visit to the Bell Farm, p. 8

Broadview is in Assiniboia, and we were well upon the second steppe of the great plains, a region which is only a little less rich, as a wheat-growing country, than Manitoba. At Indian Head, the next principal station, is the great Experimental Farm, called the Bell Farm, which we had an opportunity of driving over—a wonderful sight it was; the long procession of brickboards and other vehicles led by Major Bell, and winding about among the vast sea of wheat which seemed boundless. 7,000 acres of wheat, of which more than half was still standing, surrounded us, besides vast crops of oats and flax. The average yield was considered to be  $22\frac{1}{2}$  bushels per acre. For reaping this harvest 27 horse-reapers were at work then, and other machines were drawn up in a sort of military fashion at the house. The quality of the grain is what is there called Red Fife, No. 1 hard. “No. 1 Hard,” is a phrase of the Manitoba grain standard, which reads—“No. 1 Hard spring wheat shall be Red Fife wheat, containing not more than 10 per cent. admixture of softer varieties, must be sound, well cleaned, and weigh not less than 60 lbs. to the measured Imperial Bushel.” The grain is so dry that it is threshed on the ground and at once stored in the granary.

The farm is worked in five divisions, and Major Bell telephones instructions to the foreman each evening from his residence. All matters connected with this vast experiment were gone into very thoroughly by our fellow-travellers, Professors Sheldon and Fream, of Downton Agricultural College, each of whom gives his imprimatur to the encouraging statements made by the farm authorities.

I have given briefly the results upon this prairie land, when it is “tickled with a plough and laughs into harvest.”

1884 – Aug. 12 – Alfred Pegler, from England, visits the Bell Farm and reports in considerable depth on its progress, also Major Bell’s trophies on display (arrow p. 38), and reference to plowing by James Ewart (p. 39):



settler life appear at intervals. Moosomin has about 60 houses and a score of tents, some larger than usual. Regarding the winter, I obtained some valuable information from the Rev. James Robertson, the Presbyterian of the Presbyterian Church, whose charge extends from Port Arthur to Calgary. Mr. Robertson informed me that he had camped out from 25th September to 10th November in the snow, and has never been frost bitten; he has even slept under the lee of a willow without a tent, with the thermometer shewing 25 degrees of frost. At Moosomin the train was boarded by Corporal Harper, of the mounted police, who overhauled Leveillie, and saw that his spirit permit was *en règle*. Harper is a fine specimen of the body he represents; he looked more like a life's guardsman than a man on police duty, wearing a bright scarlet coat, jack boots, &c., carrying in a belt, each one exposed to sight, 20 rifle and 12 pistol ball cartridges, his revolver in the same belt, ready for immediate use. It was with some pleasure the corporal found two ladies in the car from his native county of Yorkshire. Indian Head is, like so many of the places I have alluded to, the creation of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Two years ago it did not exist. There are now many houses, two hotels running, and a large one, built by the Bell Farm Company, not opened, and which will probably be diverted from its original purpose, and be converted into a college. The experience of a night at the hotel was enjoyable, because it opened up a new phase of hotel life; still, one night's experience was sufficient. The house is unfinished, and the arrangements most crude. I was shown into a double-bedded room, and proceeded to lock the door, and should have done so had there been a lock. This might have saved me from disturbance, for shortly after I had retired two hardy sons of toil took possession of the other bed. The name of the place (Indian Head), an encampment of Indians just outside, and a general feeling of mistrust, induced me to peep beneath both beds, and it was with some little disappointment that no Indian's head met my view. The "fixings" of my room were unique; the bedstead of rough planks, rudely nailed together, and with such sharp edges, and the bed—a bag of straw so rough that it might well have served to work out a penance on. The only partition between it and the adjoining one, which I well knew to be occupied by a man and his wife, was brown paper, with a hole large enough in it for me to have got through; there were also a jug, without water, and one towel—and the towels here are less than half the size we use at home—between the three of us. I made a firm resolve that unless my room mates walked in their sleep, I would have the first turn at that towel, and so I did; but it involved my rising before six, though I had not retired till after one o'clock. Adjacent to my room a mother and child reposed, the "tootsey, wootsey's" of the little darling varying the sonorous sounds which emanated from the brown paper-partitioned room. Two ladies (Miss H. M. Hargreaves and Miss H. E. Pearson, members of the British Association) who arrived at the hotel at the same time fared better, so far as that they had a lock to their door. They were not quite content, however, with the appearance of their room, which was the quarters of one of the mounted police; still, they found the accoutrements useful, as supplying the lack of ordinary furniture—a pair of jack boots serving admirably in lieu of a dressing table. It must not be thought that I am complaining of the hotel; on the contrary, I admire the enterprise that runs an hotel under such circumstances, and deem myself fortunate in the experience it afforded me.

#### BELL FARM,

which technically is known as the Qu'appelle Valley Farming Company, Limited, is situated in the valley from which it derives its name, and is in the territory of Assiniboia, 320 miles west of Winnipeg, upon the line of the C.P.R. In the spring of 1883, actual operations commenced upon 2,500 acres; this year this has been increased to 7,200 acres under crop, of which 5,500 is in wheat, in one continuous area, broken only by roads, one unbroken field comprising 1,500 acres. As a rule each field is two miles long by one mile wide. There are 1,300 acres under oats, and of flax 400 acres, which is believed to be the largest cultivation of flax ever known in one lot. A herd of 60 cows, about 200 head of horses, and a few swine are kept for home purposes. The capital of the Company is

£120,000, in shares of £20, of which 45 per cent. is paid up. There are about 50 self-binders of the most improved type, half of United States and half of Canadian make; of steam machinery there are seven complete outfits of thrashers; there are about 100 sulky and gang ploughs, in addition to a large number of seeders, and all other implements necessary for the operations of a farm upon so extensive a scale. The territory of the farm is 10 miles by eight miles, say eighty thousand acres of land available for cultivation. The prospect at present is a yield of 30 bushels of wheat, of oats 50 bushels, and of flax 15 bushels per acre. If this estimate is realised (of which there can be but little doubt), the enormous quantity of 165,000 bushels of wheat and 70,000 of oats will be garnered on this one farm. I am promised the annual report, which will verify, or otherwise, the foregoing estimate. There are 100 men employed, accommodation being afforded for a large number on the farm. There are farm buildings of every kind, the ventilation of the stables being excellent; the cow shed, as usual in this country, groans beneath its tons of straw, which afford ample warmth, shelter, and heat; a large ice house supplies the necessary article for the use of the farm. The one wheat grown is that known as Red Pyfe, producing the quality known as No. 1 hard, and therefore commanding the highest price in the market. Major Bell, the founder of the farm, kindly met me at the hotel, and drove me there, where the kindly greeting of his amiable lady at once made me feel at home. We were fortunate enough to meet at the hospitable farm the Hon. E. Dewdney, governor of Assiniboia, and his lady, and it will be a source of regret if time prevents my acceptance of his kind invitation to visit him at Regina, the capital of the province.

Catching gophers is an industry of the Indians on the farm. Deemed a vermin, a cent each is placed on their tails. Many hundreds of the caudal appendage lay before me in Major Bell's office, and whilst I write, fifteen more are added to the number; the bodies of the rodent afford a meal to their destroyer. A table in the drawing-room is covered with prizes and mementoes of Major Bell's skill as a crack shot. The Major was one of the Canadian team that successfully competed at Wimbledon in 1871, and obtained other prizes from the year 1865. During the time when the difficulty arose in the East, and it was probable that war might ensue between Great Britain and Russia, it was expected that Canada would be called upon to supply an army corps. The Volunteers to a large extent tendered to Lord Dufferin their services to aid the British forces, and Major Bell was one of the first to display his patriotism. A telephonic system has been established on the farm, by which direct communication is made with all parts of the system, and this alone saves a large amount in horses and labour. Major Bell does not make sanguine estimates, but forms his calculations on such a low basis as to prevent disappointment. There is no scarcity of labour; in fact, the Bell Farm is a favourite field of labour. Farm labourers at this season receive 30 dollars per month, with board and lodging. The whole land is divided into smaller farms of 213 acres each; these are sub-divided into thirds, say 71 acres each, this being deemed the capacity of one plough and three horses. After harvest, one-third of this small farm is left fallow, and ploughed between seeding and harvest, thus being ready for seed the following year. In addition to the advantage to the ground from being fallowed, the economy of working is preserved with a balance between the slower operation of ploughing as compared to the harvesting. Major Bell claims that by the system he pursues, the economies in working the farm, and the advantages to be obtained by the use of the most perfect class of machinery, he can produce the highest quality of wheat, and place it on the cars for 35 cents; say 1s. 6d. per bushel, or 12s. per quarter. The farm was purchased partly from the Dominion Government, the C.P.R., and a small portion from the Hudson's Bay Company, at an average cost of about two dollars per acre; the portion of that bought from the latter was at a much higher figure than of the former, which greatly increased the average. The extensive yards of the Bell Farm present the appearance of an agricultural show. Rows of steam engines, binders, and every kind of implement meet the eye at every turn; every implement is manufactured specially for the farm, and bears an intimation to that effect. Seated by the side of the Major, and behind his handsome pair of bays (Sultan and Jack), I had the

pleasure of driving throughout the cultivated portions of the farm. There are studded about at various points 35 houses, of superior quality, in which the men reside. These receive 35 dollars per month, with house and an acre of land rent free. These men also board other men, for whom they receive five dollars per week—no small source of income to them. Close to each cottage is stabling, and at various points are erected 15 grain tanks, each to hold 1,000 bushels, besides granaries, to contain 5,000 bushels each. By depositing the grain as soon as thrashed in these receptacles much time and labour are saved. Great economy has been observed in working the land; generally it is broken, and then back set, or ploughed deeper a second time, but Major Bell has only worked the land once. There are 25 miles of trees planted around the farm, and one avenue four miles in length. The crops are excellent throughout, but there is one piece of wheat, of 1,500 acres, of such superior quality that I only wish my farmer friends could see it. There are 20 acres self grown. The wheat bricked out last year, and presents a fair crop. The fields are singularly free from weeds, but the young rose trees there are a few inches high, giving promise of beauty and fragrance next year. We drove along a wonderful furrow, two miles long, as straight as an arrow, the handiwork of a Scotchman, named James Ewart.

A melancholy spot was passed in a field—a row of eight graves, the resting place of children who had gone from the prairie to their eternal home. The marvellous change which has been wrought within a few years is proved by the Major's experience. Only two years since he came up from Brandon, the then terminus of the railway, with 120 yoke of oxen, 30 mules, and 11 horses, carts, &c., occupying six weeks on trail. Within a week he was enabled to return by train, the track having been completed in the meantime.

#### ABORIGINAL INDIANS.

An Indian has just brought in more gophers' tails. His dress is picturesque, if not over clean; his hair, which, like that of all his tribe, is long, is braided down to fine points, at the end of some of which are the tails of the gopher; he wears a row of gaily coloured beads, and carries a gun of ancient make; and his ears are ornamented at the top with rings. A gay fellow of his tribe is riding by; his attire is gaudy in the extreme, his head gear being of the orthodox bazaar type; he, too, has an ancient gun slung across his shoulder. There are about 25 wigwams of Assiniboine Indians near. They are indeed in a state of nature, and some could even vie with the noble savage whose only apparel was an umbrella and a pair of spurs. The young Indians are skilful in the use of the bow and arrow, shooting birds and gophers with some degree of certainty. An elderly Indian having the front of his hair tufted in a gopher skin, we, by signs, elicited from him that it was a talisman to the happy hunting grounds beyond. This man appeared to think he had not obtained full payment for his gopher tails; so I gave him a five cent piece. This appeared to be in excess of what he thought his due; and he went off and secured an additional tail, and brought it in as small change. By signs he informed me that he had two papouse, and that they had worked the mocassins he was wearing. I passed a store where the Government keep a supply of Red River carts, ploughs, and tents, which they distribute amongst any of the Indians who may desire to engage in agriculture.

#### THE EFFECT OF CLIMATE ON FARMING.

As an instance of an unusual crop, I was informed that Mr. Angus McKay, of Indian Head, harvested 400 bushels of wheat from 10 acres in 1883. My informant, Mr. D. A. McArthur, saw the corn thrashed and weighed. The climate is such that the farmers have no fear as to the weather. The doubt which ever exists in England as to whether the harvest will be fine is unknown in this country, though there is a slight feeling as to the possibility of frost. The same informant told me of 18 years continuous farming without manure, the crops not becoming less. This was the experience of Mr. T. Cavanagh, who resides 18 miles from Indian Head. Mr. McArthur also said that if fifty labouring men were to go to Indian Head next spring they would find employment; but, as he said, they must be the right sort—hardworking, frugal men.

155 kb

1884 – August 15 – *Guide to the Qu'Appelle Valley*, Assiniboia, by R. Sykes, includes on p. 29 tour by Bedford Pim of British Association to Bell Farm.

On August 14th, 1884, Capt. Bedford Pim and party, members of the British Association, drove from Qu'Appelle Station to the head quarters of the Edgeley Estate (see on map Edgeley Farm Post Office), thence in a westerly direction for five miles, where they and other visitors, numbering forty in all, partook of luncheon at the farm of Messrs. James and Robert Smith. After luncheon the party drove northward and, striking the Moose Jaw trail, passed on to the rancho of Messrs. Fiennes and Fetherstonhaugh, where afternoon tea was provided, after which they reached the village of Fort Qu'Appelle. On August 15th, after spending the morning at Fort Qu'Appelle, the party drove along the northern shore of the Lake to the Roman Catholic Mission, thence to Katepwa and over the prairie to Indian Head, where, after inspecting the Bell Farm, and enjoying the hospitality of Major and Mrs. Bell, they took the train the same evening for Winnipeg.

1884 - Aug. 21 – *Regina Leader* p. 1 – Squatter Arbitrators Taylor and Woods visit Bell Farm and Regina area

“**Visit of the Bell Farm Arbitrators to Regina:** In the end of last week we had a visit from Messrs. John T. Wood M.P. for Brockville and George Taylor of Gananoque, M.P. for South Leeds who, being at the Bell Farm were anxious to see Regina and the country around it.

1884 – Aug 21 – *Regina Leader* – p. 4 – Settlement between Bell Farm and Squatters

**THE BELL FARM V. THE SQUATTERS**

Mr. T. C. Johnstone of Regina the solicitor of the Squatters on the Bell Farm who is now at Ottawa has succeeded in making a satisfactory arrangement on behalf of his clients. An agreement has been signed at the Capital embodying the terms of the settlement, the squatters are to vacate the lands they now hold and are to receive from the Company in cash the value of their interest in the same including their improvements such value to be determined by arbitration, the squatters are to be provided with homesteads and pre-emptions elsewhere and are to be entitled to a patent after one years residence instead of the usual period of 3 years The squatters also obtain other advantages but these appear to be the main features of the agreement.

1884 – Aug. 22 – *Prince Albert Times*, p. 6 – NW Council and squatters issue:

“Mr. Ross proposed a series of resolutions relative to the rights of squatters on Regina, Moose Jaw and Bell Farm reserves, to which Mr. White moved in amendment the following: -

1.”That in the opinion of this Council a memorial should be sent through the Executive Council to the Dominion Government urging upon the Hon. The Minister of the Interior the advisability of at once recognizing the full claims of all bona fide settlers in the Regina and Moose Jaw reserves.”

1884 – Aug. 27 – *Winnipeg Daily Sun*, p. 1 – Professor Goldwin Smith to Bell Farm

“Professor Goldwin Smith dined at Government House last night, and left for the Bell Farm this morning.”

1884 – Sept. 4 – *Brandon Mail*, p. 8 – Mrs. Groom’s group of Deaf Mutes work at Bell Farm

“Mr. John Parker, agent for Mrs. Groom, visited Wolseley last week. There had an additional ten deaf-mutes arrived from Winnipeg, where she had left them to get work. Five of them have obtained employment at the Bell Farm, and the other five have been taken to Indian Head where they are all in employment with farmers and in full hope of getting farms of their own speedily.”

1884 – Sept. 5 – Letter from Dewdney to Macdonald – brickmaking at Indian Head

“The Brickmaker has some 60,000 bricks & is burning fresh kilns.”

1884 – early September – Thomas H. Thomas, special artist with the “*Graphic*”, accompanies the British

Association and makes this sketch of the Bell Farm. A portion of the round barn is visible on the far right in this view.



148 kb

1884 – Sept. 10 – NWMP horse theft at the Bell Farm – Burton Deane account, in “*Mounted Police Life in Canada*”, (1916), p. 17.

“On September 15, 1884, I received a telegram from Major Bell, that in the course of the previous night fifteen horses had been stolen from the Bell Farm and driven rapidly southwards towards the line. Sergeant Blight and a couple of men from Regina succeeded in recovering seven of the horses in Montana, and as the tracks of only nine animals could be found on the south side of the Missouri River it was conjectured that the others had been driven to exhaustion, and some of them possibly drowned in attempting to cross. I asked Major Bell afterwards how it was that the thieves managed to get the horses out of locked stables, and he replied, “Oh, we gave up that practice; it became too tiresome!”

(see Oct. 16 for details on the arrest)

1884 – Sept – Bell Farm Horse Theft, (as reported in *Coleman Bulletin*, Dec. 7, 1917, p. 2; and in the *Empress Express*, Dec. 13, p. 12.; and *Strathmore Standard*, Nov. 18, 1917, p. 6.)

“**The Assiniboine Indians** - . . . Some years ago when horse stealing was common on the plains, Major Bell, who operated the Bonanza farm at Indian Head, had some valuable animals stolen out of his barn. No one had seen them go and there was no trace of them left in the country. The commissioner of the Mounted Police asked Colonel Macdonald of Crooked Lakes, who at that time was Indian Agent for Treaty 7, if he could supply an Indian tracker. The colonel went down to the Assiniboine reserve and brought up two old hunters. They picked up the trail at the door of Major Bell’s stable and loped away on it to the American boundary. They never lost it despite that fact that a herd of cattle crossed it in the Yellow Grass Marsh, and eventually came up with the horse thieves on the banks of the Yellowstone. The horses were recovered and turned over to Major Bell. – Regina Post. “

1884 – Sept. 10-12 - Sir John Lister-Kaye diary excerpts –( transcripts by Hugh Henry)

*NOTE from Hugh Henry: Balgonie is on Sec. 3 T18 R17; Lister-Kaye’s property included the two sections in T18, noted, as well as 11 sections (not in a block) immediately south of Balgonie, within six miles of town. The initial purchases were from the CPR (Winnipeg office) in Sept., 1884, then added to in subsequent years. Financing of the purchases is unclear, but property was disposed of in 1889 because of financial difficulties related to Canadian Agricultural, Coal & Colonization Co. (commonly called the 76 Ranches).*

### Wednesday, September 10

Start by 8:30 a.m. [Winnipeg] train for Indian Head, with Mr. Nelson and Mr. Struthers, a C.P.R. land surveyor. We arrive at Indian Head at 12:00 midnight. Sleep comfortably at hotel.

### Thursday, September 11

Start in buckboard at 6:15 a.m., drive about to see the crops, 5,000 in wheat, 2,000 in oats, 500 in flax. Breakfast with Major & Mrs. Bell after whom the Farm is called the Bell Farm at 7:30. At 8:15 drive again with Major Bell around the Farm, see the Brantford self-binder, price to Mr. Bell \$160. See his cottages going up of stones picked off the land, mason’s work \$55 per cottage. Start at 10:40 a.m. on freight train to Qu’Appelle where we dine, and at 1:30 drive off to see the Sykes farm five miles north

where Mr. Cameron the manager shows us the steam plough at work with harrows attached. Drive down to the railroad through a beautiful bluff country; lakes woods and intermediate cultivation. Arrive at Balgonie at 9:45, capital supper. Nelson, Struthers and I sleep on the floor in the spare room.

Friday, September 12

Breakfast at 7:00. Start out with Mr. Dixon a pioneer settler, to see the land. Sections 1 and 5 in T 18, R 17; Sections 21,23,25,27,33,35 in T 17, R 17. We go carefully over the land and find it a fine loam, with good clay traces subsoil. We take train at 4.00 to Regina. Mr. Lewis the station master is most pleasant. We arrive at Regina at 5.00, dine there, walk round, about 1,500 inhabitants. Take train [to Brandon, then Winnipeg] at 10:40 p.m. Glad of "sleeper."

1884 – Sept. 10 – NWMP Annual Report details horse theft at the Bell Farm

Having, on the information of John Paul, the aforesaid farmer, obtained a warrant from a Broadview magistrate, for the arrest of four of the gang in question, he followed them from Troy (recovering on the road one of the stolen horses, which had been traded with a settler) to the neighborhood of the Turtle Mountains, found them with another of the stolen animals in their possession, apprehended, and brought them to Regina, where they were sentenced to various terms in the penitentiary by Col. Richardson. After the conviction constable Hooper followed and arrested near Fort Ellice a fifth member of the gang, who stole the other two horses. One of these was taken from the thief and restored to its owner by "Little Child," a chief on the Crooked Lakes reserve, and the other died while on its way north in the thief's possession. This prisoner received a sentence of three years in the penitentiary. On the 3rd of August these five convicts were accompanied to Stony Mountain by two other horse thieves, one apprehended by constables Parkins and Halliday, from Fort Qu'Appelle, at the south branch of the Saskatchewan, with the stolen mare in his possession, and the other, an Assiniboine Indian who was arrested by interpreter Leveille near the Cypress Hills, and admitted his guilt. Between 10 p.m. of the 14th September last, and 4 a.m. next day, fifteen horses were stolen from the Bell Farm and driven rapidly southwards to the line. This was evidently the work of an organized gang of horse thieves from beyond the border, as shown by the sequel. The horses were driven directly south from Indian Head, having crossed the Missouri about thirty-two miles to the eastward of Fort Buford. Some time after 4 a.m. on the 15th, Major Bell, with a party of men and Indians, started after the thieves. He telegraphed to me, and to constable Hooper, at Troy, and the latter at once hired the only two obtainable horses in the place, and with another constable, followed in pursuit. These horses, unfortunately, played out after going about forty miles, and constable Hooper was compelled to give up the chase and return to Troy. Major Bell, who had the most reasonable prospect of coming up with the thieves, appears to have lost the trail, as on the 16th he notified to me his return from the south-east without trace of the thieves, and enquired whether I had sent out any constables. Seeing that Regina is forty miles to the west of Indian Head, and the fugitives were travelling south from the latter place, a party starting from Regina must necessarily have travelled along the third side of a triangle, and it would have been a good day's ride merely to pick up the trail (supposing even that they could have struck it by taking a south-easterly direction at chance) and their horses must then have halted for rest; the thieves, meanwhile, driving their unfortunate animals to exhaustion. To resume the account; I informed Major Bell that I had telegraphed to the officers commanding at Forts Buford and Assiniboine, asking them to do what they could towards recovering the stolen horses; meanwhile, I knew that constable Hooper would not relinquish the pursuit as long as there was any chance of success. On the 16th I heard that he and his companion had been able to proceed no further, and Sergt. Blight and two men were sent from Regina, at Major Bell's request, to accompany another party which was about to start.

This party started the next morning, and followed the trail to the Missouri River, picking up on the road one of the missing horses, which had "played out" and been abandoned. At the Missouri Sergt. Blight reports that, having changed into plain clothes, he went to Fort Buford, thirty-two miles to the westward, on the way finding two more of the stolen horses, which were tied to a fence at a ranchman's place. At Fort Buford he engaged the services of the United States Deputy Marshal, and retraced his steps to the crossing of the Missouri, whence, with the Deputy Marshal, two constables, an interpreter and three Indians, he followed up the trail. Up to the time of their reaching the river the trail had showed that seventeen horses were in the band, but on the other side the marks of only nine could be found, the inference being that some of the balance were too much exhausted to swim across and were drowned. Sergt. Blight's report thus describes their farther journey:—  
"Continuing through the bad lands, where we were for thirty-six hours without food or water, we arrived on the bank of the Yellowstone River, and there in the bush found four of the stolen horses tied up to trees, but nobody with them. I removed



the horses and camped close by. On searching further I discovered some harness and saddlery belonging to the 'Bell Farming Company.' I had hopes that the thieves would return to feed the horses, but they, having most likely received information of our whereabouts, did not do so; so on the following day we proceeded to the Benny Piers, taking the recovered stock with us. There, owing to the stock having been so overdriven, we had to rest for a couple of days, and then proceeded to Ridge Lawn. On arrival at this place, from information I received, accompanied by the Deputy Marshal and one constable, I proceeded to where the thieves were said to reside, and there discovered a gang of eight, all well armed, so the Deputy Marshal deemed it advisable to send to Miles City for a sheriff's posse. While we were waiting for this assistance the thieves broke camp and started for Glendive, were met by the sheriff, arrested and taken to Miles City. Finding I could do nothing further in the matter we started for Indian Head, taking with us the recovered stock; arrived there on the 16th October, and handed over stock to Major Bell."

In August last, in consequence of a communication from the Collector of Customs at Brandon, to the effect that thieves with forty head of horses were in the Riding Mountains, Supt. Shurtliff proceeded northwards from Brandon, in company with Mr. Hessian, to ascertain, if possible, their exact location, sending on his party of one non-commissioned officer and eight men to Newdale to await orders. It had been reported to Dr. Harrison, M. P. P., who lives about fifty miles north-east of Brandon, on the Little Saskatchewan River, that the horses were on a small prairie about fifteen miles up the Rolling River. "That part of the Riding Mountains" says Supt. Shurtliff, is densely crowded with timber, this prairie being the only place where the horses could go, there being only two trails leading to it, one from the mouth of Rolling River and the other from the Hudson Bay Company's post at Riding Mountain." Having, on the recommendation of Mr. Armitt, in charge of the Hudson Bay post, engaged two reliable men to act as scouts, Supt. Shurtliff returned to Newdale for his detachment and conducted them to the Hudson Bay post in question, where he was met by the scouts and informed that there were no horses or tracks of horses in the vicinity. In order to verify this report, Supt. Shurtliff visited a settler, who lives at the mouth of Rolling River, and who was supposed to have originated the report about the thieves and horses. This he denied, and said further, that there had been only one horse thief in that neighborhood, and that he had gone into the mountains by way of the Hudson Bay post, and come out by his place with three horses. He, the settler, had bought one of the horses, not knowing the vendor to be a horse thief, and that the two others had been sold in Rapid City—these latter were subsequently seized for Custom duties.

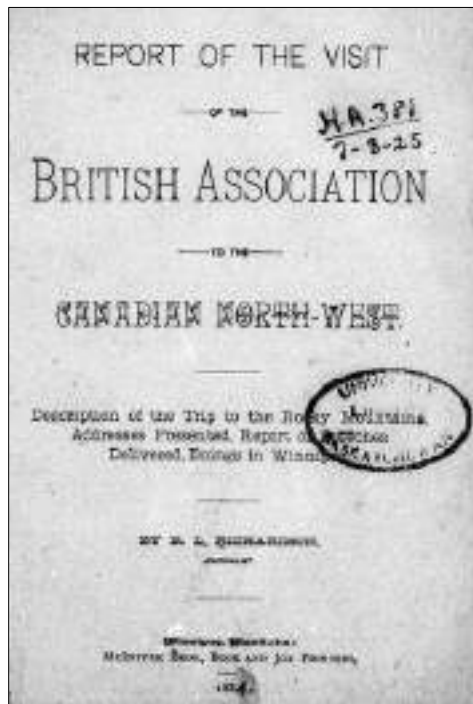
Superintendent Shurtliff's report concludes: "I have found that these thieves have agents to inform them when there are any parties to arrest them, and therefore found it necessary to travel night and day to arrest them, if possible, before they could get information of our being in pursuit of them."

This party, as constituted above, then proceeded to watch the southern frontier of Manitoba in the interests of the settlers, as opposed to the horse thieving fraternity, who were, I am happy to report, on that or on other accounts, conspicuous by their absence.

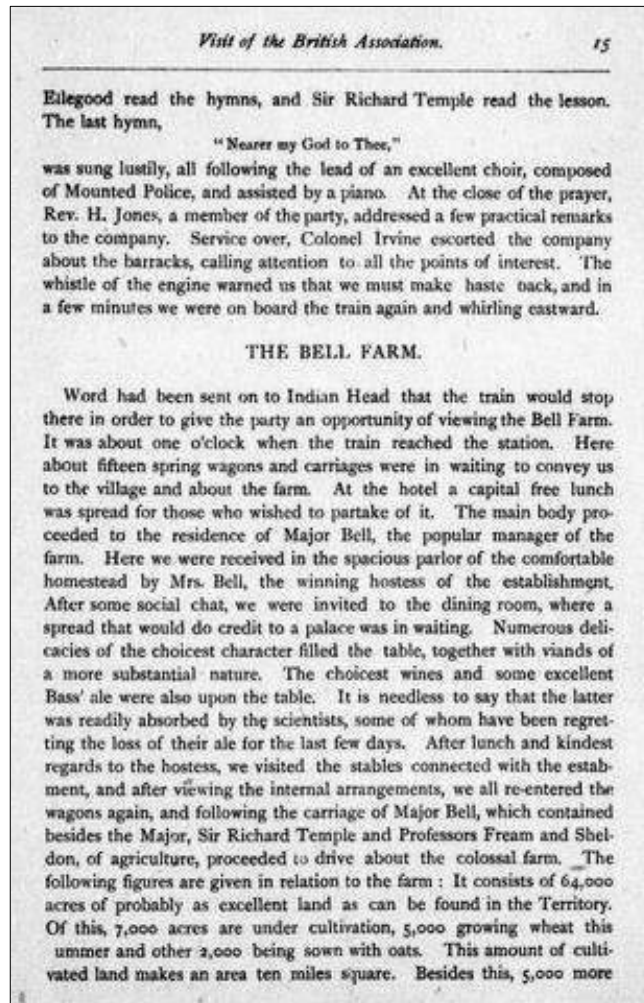
In connection with horse stealing, no less than in other crimes, the Vagrant Act has been found, in the West, to be very efficacious. Suspicious characters who have been in the habit of loitering about, with no apparent means of gaining a livelihood, notwithstanding that, in some cases they have been well supplied with money, and who, it is well known, are merely acquiring local information and awaiting opportunities to raid settlers' horses, or commit some other breach of the law, have been given twenty-four hours to quit the place; and, as a rule, they have promptly availed themselves of the invitation.

The clause in the Larceny Act providing for the bringing of stolen property into Canada has also a very beneficial effect, and it is to be regretted that a similar law is not in force in the United States.

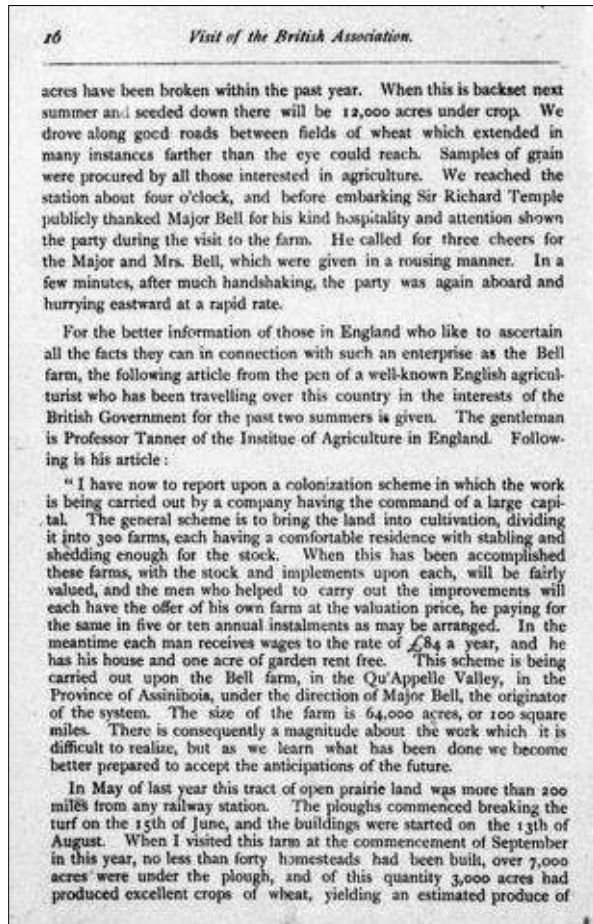
1884 –Sept. 14 - Report from R. L. Richardson on the British Association Tour of the Bell Farm



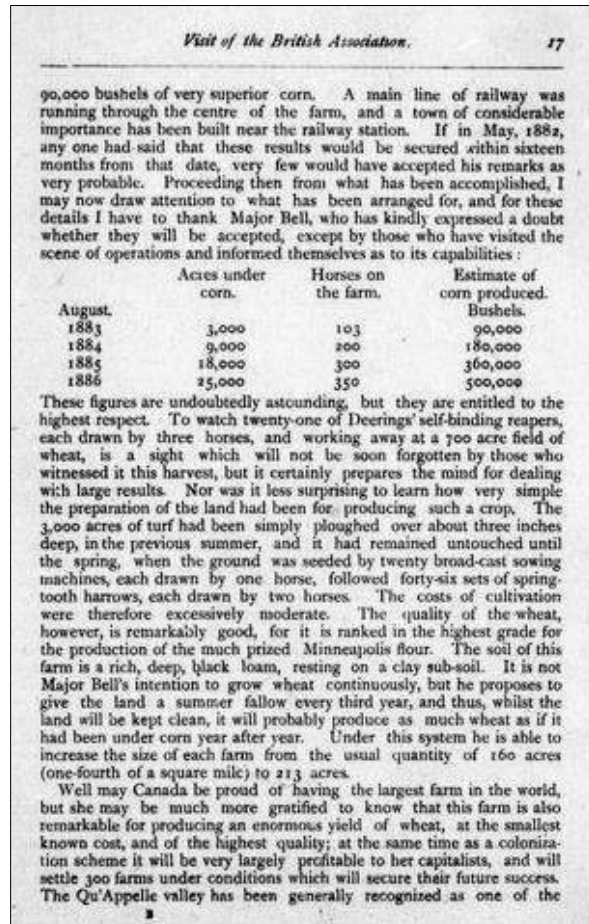
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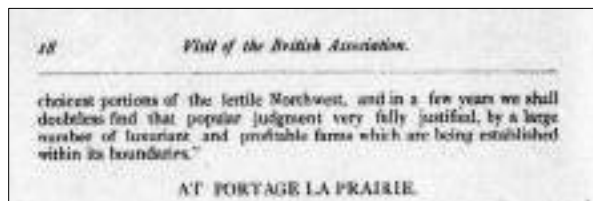
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1884 – Sept. 23 – Peter O'Leary's visit to the Bell Farm – and his Dec. 31 brief comment in his report to the Minister of Agriculture:

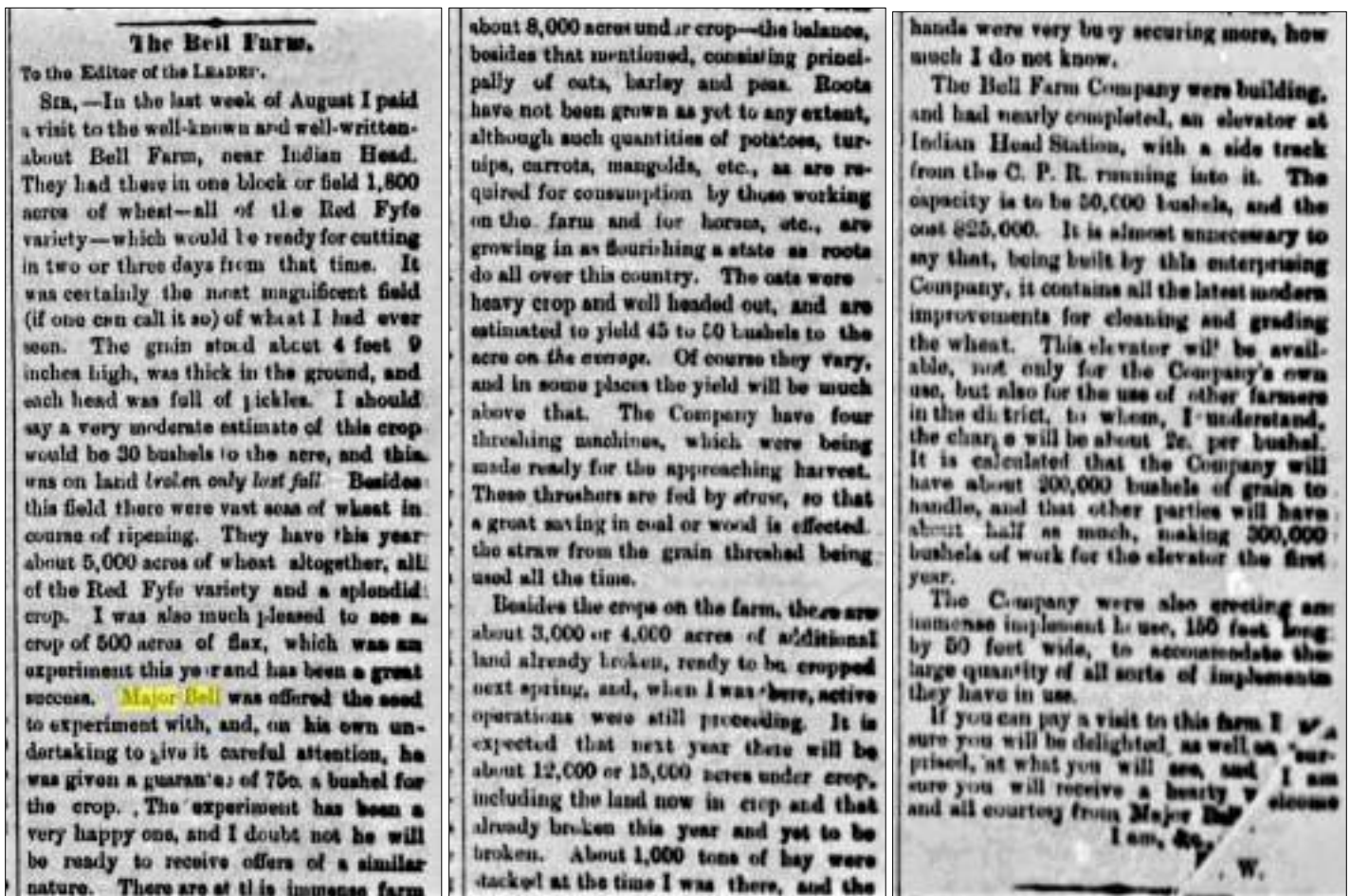
"On the Bell Farm, there were four hundred acres of flax, but how it turned out I do not know. As yet the fibre has not been made any use of."

and later. . . .

"On the Bell Farm I saw forty-two reapers and binders at work on seven thousand acres of wheat, some of which had been slightly touched by the frost, but as the grain was almost ripe the injury was not very severe."

(Source: 1885 sessional paper #8, report #21, p. 129)

1884 – Sept. 25 – *Regina Leader* – p. 4 – Letter describes crops on the Bell Farm



149 kb

153 kb

117 kb

1884 – Sept. 29 – *New York Daily Graphic*, p. 663 – British Association tour; mention of Bell Farm

“ . . . Among other places visited during the excursion was the celebrated Bell farm, which is one of the largest in the world, having an area of about 64,000 acres, of which 7,000 acres are under crop this year, and next year Major Bell expects to have about 12,000 acres under cultivation. The estimated yield for the present year is 128,000 bushels of wheat and 85,000 bushels of oats, besides miscellaneous cereals and roots. . . . ”

1884 – September – *Visitors Register*

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
86	Sept. 3, 1884	L. Lebret, O.M.I.	R.C. Mission, Qu'Appelle	Saskatchewan – early Catholic missionary. He arrived at the mission in 1884, and is responsible for having the name of the mission church changed to Sacre Coeur de Jesus. While he wanted to have the postal address given the same name, it was given his name instead

87	Sept. 3, 1884	J. Hugonard	Industrial School, Qu'Appelle	Saskatchewan – Roman Catholic priest at the Indian Residential School at Lebret from 1880-1917
88		...???. Jarvis	Cornwall, Ontario	
89		Salter M. Jarvis	Qu'Appelle	Saskatchewan – one of the original investors in the Bell Farm Col. Salter M. Jarvis (Queen's Own Rifles) was the Public Notary for the NWT and the son of George Stephen Jarvis, whose first wife was Julia Sherwood, was Major Bell's aunt. ENTRY 90 is his wife Jennie Ellen (nee Brooke)
90		Mrs. Salter M. Jarvis	Qu'Appelle	Saskatchewan - Major Bell's aunt.
91		...???. .....	Winnipeg	Manitoba – similar to # 73
92		John Lister-Kaye	England	Established a large ranching operation in SW Saskatchewan and SE Alberta The Nov. 20, 1885: Qu'Appelle Progress mentions Sir John Lister Key of Key farm – 600 to 700 acres. I think it was around Balgonie.
93		Thomas Nelson	England	
94		Edmund Amos Struthers	Winnipeg	Manitoba Edmund Amos Struthers (1855-1935) was a Manitoba farmer, investor in the Selkirk Eastern and Western Railway Company, a railway land inspector, the Manager of Barnardo's Home - a colonization programme for British youth, and a member of the Board of Health for the District of Keewatin.
95		G.F. Dawson	Ston....., England	Possibly George M. Dawson, the federal government surveyor ? verify signature
96	No Entry	No Entry	No Entry	No Entry
97	Sept. 14, 1884	Richard Temple	Worcestershire, England	Sir Richard Temple -
98	No Entry	No Entry	No Entry	No Entry
99	No Entry	No Entry	No Entry	No Entry
100	x	Malcolm Macadam	Edinburgh	Scotland
101	x	John Prince Sheldon	Sheen, Ashbourne, England	Professor Sheldon - Ref: Staffordshire Past-Track <a href="http://www.search.staffspasttrack.org.uk/">http://www.search.staffspasttrack.org.uk/</a>
102		Rct Robinson	London	England
103	x	W. Fream	Downton Mills	Professor W. Fream – part of group that visited the Bell Farm on Sept. 14, 1884. – see Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society of

				England report – 4 Dec 2010 e-mail from Michelle Cabana, from Downton, Salisbury, England – p.217 -308: - p. 227-Bell pays ½ penny for gopher tails; p. 255 – Bell Farm tillage practices; p.275 – ½ of Bell Farm machinery from USA; p 276- 288 detail of Bell Farm report; p.292 Bell Farm weather;
104		.....??.....	.....London ?.	
105		John Leach	<i>Bottin</i> , Lancashire	England
106		C.C. Leach	<i>Bellington</i> .....	England
107		J. Ellegood	Montreal	Quebec: Canon James Ellegood Canon of Christ Church Cathedral and rector of St. James the Apostle Church
108		Hugo ... Muller	Vienna, Austria	
109		...???...bury	London	England
110		John McIntyre	...ham, England	
111		Isaac Ashe	Dublin, Ireland	
112		???... Horenden	West <i>Dubwich</i> , London	England
113		W. ???.....	Bolton, Emgland	
114		W.N. Hockwell	14 Paternoster ..., London (for British Press)	England
115		William Favill Tuke	<i>Saffron</i> Waldon, England	William Favill Tuke was the chairman of the Barclays Bank.
116		Archie McNee , “Free Press”	Winnipeg, Manitoba	
117		R.L. Richardson “Sun”	Winnipeg, Manitoba	A reporter accompanying the British Association contingent
118		Wm. Topley	H.M. Geological Survey, England	
119		W. Whitaker	Geological Survey of England	Member of the British Association tour
120		James Edmonds, M.D.	..... <i>Street</i> , London	England

121		Miss. L. M. Edmonds		
122		Dr. G. <i>Thorvura</i>	Toronto	Ontario
123		Miss G. <i>Thorvura</i>	Toronto	Ontario
124		Peter <i>Royle</i> , M.D <i>.I.I.</i>	.....	
125		William Boyd Dawkins	Woodhurst, <i>Fallonfield</i> , Manchester	Member of the British Association tour; Professor at Owen's College
126		Henry... <i>Marsh</i> ...		
127		George Gilbert Ramsay	The University, Glasgow	Scotland; Professor of Humanity
128		Gertrude S. Ramsay	The University, Glasgow	Scotland
129	Sept. 16, 1884	Joseph Henry Gilbert <i>(Magdalen</i> College, Oxford)	& Rothamsted, St. Albans	England: Sir Joseph Henry Gilbert (1 August 1817 - 23 December 1901) Chemical Section of the British Association .Collaborated on creating the Rothamsted Experimental Station (St. Albans) one of the oldest agricultural research institutions in the world. Knighted in 1893.
130		Maria Gilbert	England	
131		Rosse	<i>Bira</i> Castle, <i>Parsonston</i> , Ireland	Lawrence Parsons, Earl of Rosse
132	Sept. 19, 1884	Henry Fisher	Regina	Saskatchewan
133		Geo. B. Booth	Regina	Saskatchewan
134	Sept. 22, 1884	The Hon. Mrs. Joyce	St. John's... Winchester, England	
135	"	The Rev. A.G. Joyce	Winchester	England
136		Arch. McDonald	H.B. Ft. Qu'Appelle	Saskatchewan – Chief Factor of Fort Qu'Appelle (1882-1911) and the last Chief Factor in the Hudson's Bay Company system
137	Sept. 23, 1884	G.B. Longstaff	London, Morthoe, England	An entomologist, George Blundell Longstaff was a member of the British Association tour to the Bell Farm

138	“	Dr. Barnardo	London, England	Thomas Barnardo - Founder of the Barnardo Homes for Boys
139	“	A. Bowen	Peterboro, Ontario	
140	“	James H. Matheson	120 Queens Gate, London, England	James Horace Matheson: James looks to have been a listless bachelor, trying his hand at merchant banking, accounting and military service. He did not marry and died just 6 years after visiting the Bell Farm. (ref: Bill Pinfold)
141		Peter O’Leary	Park Street, Southway, London, England	
142	Sept. 27, 1884	William Lewis Boyle	Winnipeg	Manitoba – <a href="#">president of the Bell Farm in 1885.</a> – Ref; <a href="#">Ed Morgan History, p. 54</a>
143	“	Ralph T. Rokeby	Winnipeg	Manitoba: <a href="#">Ralph Thomas Rokeby</a>

## 1884 – Supreme Court of the NWT – Law Suits

SAB File	Microfiche Box Reference	District Court / Supreme Court of NWT	Conflicting Parties	Year(s)	Comments
345	B 05	DC 46/84	J.H. Benson Vs. H.J. Ellwood	1883-1884	Not sure if this Ellwood is related to Bell’s wife Katherine Elwood; James H. Benson a Regina Town Councillor
453	E 06	DC 177/84	A.J. Osment Vs. E. Shaw	1884	May be Osment working on his own, rather than for Bell – same for other Osment entries below
454	E 06	DC 178/84	A.J. Osment Vs. E. Shaw	1884	
460	F 06	DC 185/85	A.J. Osment Vs. W. Larr	1884	
461	G 06	DC 186/84	A.J. Osment Vs. W. Larr	1883-1884	
551	F 07	DC 293/84	H.J. Ellwood Vs. The Sask. Land & Homestead Co.	1884	Not sure if this Ellwood is related to Bell’s wife Katherine Elwood



552	G 07	DC 294/84	E.M. Ellwood Vs. The Sask. Land & Homestead Co.	1884	Not sure if this Ellwood is related to Bell's wife Katherine Elwood
574	J 07	DC 320/84	S.M. Jarvis Vs. D. Watson	1881-1884	Salter Jarvis one of the QVFC directors

## 1884 – October – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
144	Oct. 2, 1884	Norman ...???.	Dundee, Scotland	
145		.....	Winnipeg	Manitoba
146	Oct. 3, 1884	<i>Colonel ???.</i>	England	
147		J. Evans "Herald" Office	Carnarvon, North Wales	
148	Oct. 4, 1884	R.H. Jones	Liverpool, England	
149		Alfred W. Everest	Christ Church, Oxford, England	
150		<i>???. R. ...nstle</i>	Ottawa	Ontario
151		A.J. Baker	Qu'Appelle	Saskatchewan
152		Alan Smith, Dominion Immigration Agent	Hamilton, Ontario	
153		Francis ..... Osler	Qu'Appelle	Saskatchewan
154		Wm. Stephen	Montreal	Quebec
155		<i>W.D. Taylor</i>	Winnipeg	Manitoba
156		M. Crawford	Brockville	Ontario – possibly a relation to Robert Crawford, one of the original Bell Farm investors
157		Rev. Alexander Urquhart	Regina	Saskatchewan Reverend Urquhart was a Presbyterian minister active in missionary work in the Territories

158		James Walter Gregory	Qu'Appelle	Saskatchewan
159		Daniel Boisevain	Amsterdam	Netherlands

1884 – Oct 1 – *Fort Benton River Press* – Horses Theft update

“Winnipeg, September 17.- The horse thieves who stole sixteen animals from the Bell Farm have so far escaped. Major Bell returned last night, and started out this morning with Pie-a-Pot and others. It is supposed the thieves are hiding 25 miles south of the boundary. A reward of \$500 is offered for their capture.”

(FRANK - The Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> report also reaffirms Major Bell's close ties to the First Nation peoples, as Piapot is helping track down the horse thieves, likely in no small part due to his tracking skills.)

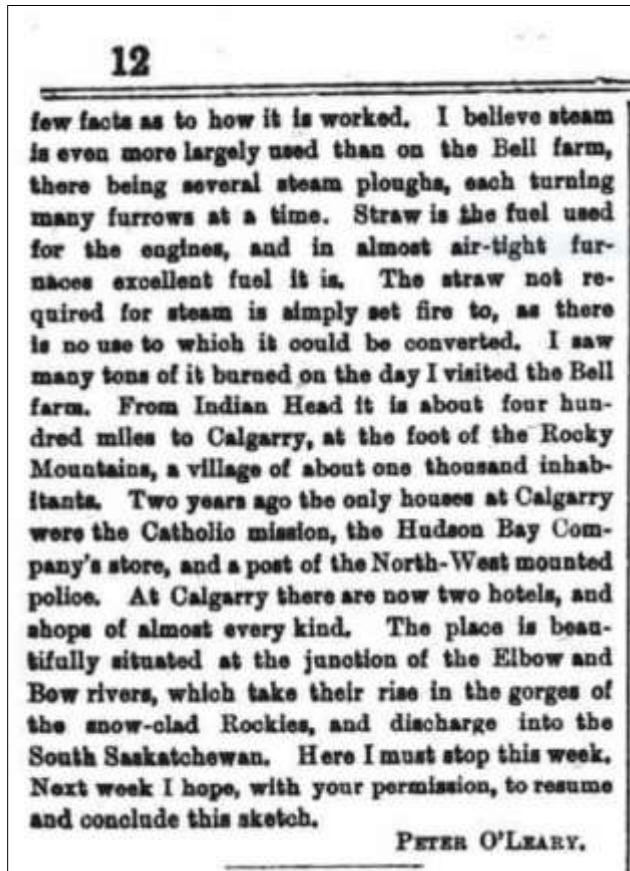
1884 – Oct. 2 – *Brandon Mail* p. 6 – Some of the stolen horses recovered

“**PROVINCIAL** – Three of the horses stolen from the Bell Farm have been recovered. None of the thieves have been captured.”

1884 – Oct. 5 – *Dublin Nation*, p. 11-12 – Report from by Peter O'Leary on Sept. 23, 1884 visit to the Bell Farm and detail on use of portable grain bins from field to elevator

wood is scarce. There is now a chain of little towns along the railway from Winnipeg to the Rockies, and two years ago there was not a house between Portage Leprarie, sixty miles from Winnipeg, and the mountains. The Iron Horse is truly a great civiliser ; it opens up comparatively unknown regions, and it develops for the use of mankind the numerous resources with which God blessed the earth. At Indian Head, about four hundred and fifty miles West of Winnipeg, I paid a visit to the famous Bell Farm, ten miles square. I was shown over a large portion of it by Mayor Bell himself, and he told me that in 1886 he would put wheat on the British market for twenty-two shillings a quarter. Mr. Parnell, Michael Davitt, Henry George, and many other public men have during the last few years delivered some telling strokes on the Irish, English, and Scotch land systems, but the Mayor Bells and the cattle ranchers of those marvellously fertile plains are the men who will crush it. Two-and-a-half years ago the Bell farm was a virgin prairie ; this year there were seven thousand acres of wheat, yielding, merely on the broken sod, twenty bushels to the acre, and next year there will be thirteen thousand acres. This year's yield is estimated at one hundred and forty thousand bushels of wheat, seventy-five thousand bushels of oats, four hundred acres of flax, besides an immense quantity of barley and a large acreage of potatoes. What

will the fox-hunting landlords say to those figures ? But there are some still more surprising to come. On the day on which I visited the farm there were forty self-binding reapers at work, each machine drawn by three horses. There were also at work seven steam threshers and winnowers, each capable of delivering one thousand bushels per day into portable granaries, which, when full, are drawn under the grain elevator at Indian Head Station, and there, by the elevator, loaded into railway carriages for shipment to England. The farm is divided into five sections, on each of which there is a resident foreman. When the day's work is over, Mayor Bell sits in his parlour, and by means of the telephone converses with his foremen in their houses, and then the foremen, for the sake of cohesion and unity of action, with each other ; no loss of time in running to the yard to get orders, no men waiting in the morning for the foreman—everything arranged in the evening by men sitting in easy arm-chairs miles away from each other. The soil is a deep brittle black loam, slightly intermixed with sand, which in hot weather prevents a dry crust, and in wet enables the water to rapidly percolate through the earth. At a place called Troy, on the Canadian Pacific Line, there is another immense wheat farm, named the Sykes farm, but I have not yet been over it. On my way East from the Rockies, however, I shall visit it just to collect a



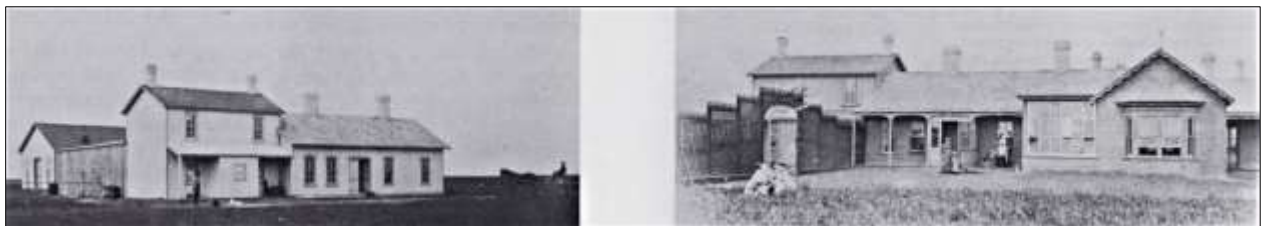
Part 3 (158 KB)

1884 – 9 Oct – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* - Bell Farm Grain Elevator completed

1884 – Oct. 9 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

Marg: (first issue of the *Vidette*, listed as "*The Fort Qu'Appelle Vidette*" and published in Fort Qu'Appelle by the Proctor Bros. Vol. 1 No 1)

Indian Head: "Mrs. Major Bell was guest of Gov Dewdney during the Regina Agricultural Exhibition."



Gov. House, Regina - 1883

and

with fence and addition on right, 1887 (140 kb)

"Bell farm elevator, now finished, was tested on Monday and did excellent work."

“The horses which were stolen from the Bell Farm some time ago have all been recovered, five were found near Fort Barford (sic – should be “Buford”), and the remainder in Yellowstone country, Dakota. The thieves were also caught and are now awaiting trial at Miles City.”

1884 – Oct. 15 – *Brandon Weekly Mail*, p. 2 – The Bell Farm: Harvest and Horse Thieves

**THE BELL FARM.**

**Harvesting Operations Over—  
All the Horse Thieves Cap-  
tured.**

Major Bell, of the Bell farm, arrived in this city last night from Indian Head. He was seen by a Times reporter this morning and stated that all the crop on the farm had been cut, and thrashing was now being prosecuted vigorously, 40,000 bushels have already been thrashed and the grain is turning out simply immense. The yield, Major Bell says, is one of the largest ever seen. He regards the prospects for the future as being very bright. Some of the late grain was slightly frozen, and some injured a little in the stack by wet weather, but the extra yield will more than counterbalance this. Seven thrashers are now at work on the farm and from six to eight thousand bushels a day are being turned out. From twelve to thirteen thousand acres will be put under crop next year.

**THE HORSE THIEVES,**

68 kb

**THE HORSE THIEVES,**

The Major states that all the horse have been captured, the last at Miles-ton City, Montana, where one of prisoners made a confession, admitting that he stole horses from the Bell farm. Five are now in the hands of Sheriff Johnston at that place and will be delivered to the Canadian authorities forthwith.

Altogether 14 horses have been stolen and it has retarded harvesting operations on the Bell farm to a very considerable extent as there were no spare horses to do the work. The horses were taken about midnight on a Sunday and as soon as they were missed a force of men were immediately dispatched in pursuance of the thieves.

It is the intention to have these scoundrels brought at once to Regina where they will be tried.

It gives Major Bell and others the greatest satisfaction to know that all the thieves have been captured, and after judgement is passed upon them it will be the means, no doubt, of forever putting an end to this thieving business.

69 kb

1884 – Oct. 16 – *Regina Leader* – p. 1 – Efforts being made to satisfy the Squatters

**SQUATTERS CLAIMS.**

(From our Special Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, Oct. 2.—I saw Mr. Burgess on Monday and to day about North-West matters and discussed the Squatters' claim both in Moose Jaw and on the Bell Farm. Mr. Burgess, when in the North-West saw Mr. Ross, the member for the North-West Council, who of course, put the case of his clients strongly, and they could not have a better advocate, but at that time a good many of them were away, and he thought it better to defer acting on Mr. Ross' suggestion to send up Mr. Smith until the Squatters should have returned. I urged on Mr. Burgess that Mr. Smith should be instructed to make a liberal settlement, and I may say this generally that the desire of the Department is to do all that is just for the North-West.

**THE BELL FARM SQUATTERS.**

When Mr. T. C. Johnstone was down here Mr. Burgess made a proposal to him that the Squatters should be allowed their time and compensation for their improvements. But Mr. Johnstone had no authority to accept this and so the matter hung fire. On the subject of the Bell Farm Squatters I am very anxious in their interest, and that of the North-West, that they should be satisfied. What has taken place between me and the Department to-day I cannot write, but I have hopes it may eventuate in a satisfactory settlement.

1884 – Oct. 16 – *Livingston Enterprise* (Livingston, Montana) – follow-up to Sept 14 horses theft report

The theft and chase was reported up by at least six American newspapers, including:

- *Fort Benton River Press*, Montana – Aug. 13, Oct. 1 and Oct. 22
- *Livingston Daily Enterprise*, Montana – Oct. 16
- *Sun River Sun*, Montana – Oct. 23
- *Hope Pioneer*, North Dakota – Oct. 24
- *Wahpeton Times*, North Dakota – Oct. 24
- *Dillon Tribune*, Montana – Nov. 1

Each paper basically reprinted the following brief note, word for word, between Oct. 16 and Nov. 1:

**“To Be Extradited.** The five horse thieves arrested a few days ago near Miles City are to be taken to Regina, in the Canadian Northwest. They stole \$12,000 worth of horses from the Bell Farm near there. The officers of Custer county will take them to the Canadian boundary and deliver them to the mounted police.”

1884 – Oct. 16, - *Qu’Appelle Vidette* (Marg’s transcript)

“Indian Head . . . The first load of grain was put into the new elevator on Monday and the machinery worked admirably.

“Pi-a-pot, like the inquisitive white man wanted to inspect the elevator, and while looking into a grain trap with his chin on the sill, (*Marg: ? Not sure if that’s the word*) the door fell, and now his face is beautifully decorated allee samee nichee on the warpath.”

Also:

**“THE BELL FARM** A meeting of the directors of the Bell Farm was held on the 10<sup>th</sup> inst. at the offices of the company. The first question discussed was the claims of the squatters who located on the farm. It will be remembered that the question between the company and the squatters was submitted to arbitration last winter. The arbitrators were two M.P.’s from Ontario. The company were to agree to the award on condition that the Government and the squatters – 16 in number – would do the same. The arbitration awarded to each man compensation for improvements made, and suggested that the Government give to each a similar amount of land as claimed by any squatter, in any place he desired it, and also that the time spent in squatting count on the new land they should take. In many cases this meant that the patents should be issued at once for the new location. Some of the squatters were dissatisfied, but after the visit of Deputy Minister Burgess, with one exception, they agreed to abide by the terms of the

award. Recently the company learned that some of the squatters were still objecting, and it was mainly for the consideration of this matter that the meeting was held. After much discussion, it was finally agreed that the company accept the terms of the award and pay over immediately to Mr. Gordon, the Dominion lands agent at Regina, the amount awarded in each case, Mr. Gordon to deliver to each squatter who will furnish a written agreement, to the terms of the award. This arrangement will only apply on the condition that all the squatters, with the exception above mentioned, must accept.  
– *Sun.*

1884 – Oct. 23, - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript) – text blurred, verify (also "fire")

Indian Head and Qu'Appelle Valley Agricultural Society held its first meeting and show. Prizes awarded to Bell Farm for horses; cattle to Motherwell, Skinner and Bell Farm. Also prizes to Bell farm for carrots, red fife wheat. No prizes to Bell Farm for sheep, poultry or swine.

**"Indian Head:** Sergeant Blight of the Mounted Police, last Friday seized an outfit consisting of four mules, ambulance bedding, harness, etc. He also held the two men in charge of suspicion of having stolen the seized property. On questioning them he found that they had come from across the line, and had no papers to show that they had paid duties. On Monday morning Collector of Customs Myles from Regina sold the whole outfit by auction and had the two men in charge arrested and sent to Regina to await their trial doe evading customs. Among the harnesses they were using was found a bridle and collar which were stolen from the Bell Farm at the same time that the horses were taken. It is believed that these two fellows are part of the same gang. Much credit is due to Sergt. Blight for the "slick" way in which he managed the seizure and arrest.

On Thursday evening one of the portable elevators on the Bell Farm was burnt. Luckily it had not been filled with grain, so not great loss has been sustained."

1884 – Oct. 30, - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

Indian Head "The first public telephone was put into operation on Tuesday between A.J. Osment's store and the CPR station. It is expected all business houses will have connection soon.

"The parties who were arrested here last week by Sergt. Blight for evading customs were tried at Regina and sent to Stony Mountain for two months holiday and fined \$50 each."

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1884 – Nov. 6 – *Brandon Mail*, p. 8 – Bell Farm operation projections for 1885

“**TOWN TOPICS** – In conversation with an official of the Bell Farm yesterday, we were informed that Major Bell will still further extend his farming operations if he can be sure of 40 cents per bushed for wheat, as he considers it will pay at that figure.”

1884 – Nov. 20, - *Qu’Appelle Vidette* (Marg’s transcript)

Indian Head “The settlement of the Bell farm squatters has finally been effected. On Saturday the treasurer of the company handed over a cheque for the amount awarded by the arbiters against the Bell farm company, \$4,310.00. Besides being paid for the improvements made by the respective squatters, each is permitted an entry in the railway or Regina reserves. The time squatters on the Bell farm being allowed them on the permitted entry. Mr. T.C. Johnstone, who has been in Winnipeg acting for the squatters has returned.”

1884 – Nov 20 & subsequent issues after, - *Qu’Appelle Vidette* (Marg’s transcript)

Marg: Advertisement for “A.J. Osment, dealer in Lumber, Sash, Doors, Plasterer’s Hair, furniture, Undertaker’s supplies, flour and feed. Just arrived one car load of choice winter apples. Indian Head, NWT”

1884 – Dec. 4, - *Qu’Appelle Vidette* (Marg’s transcript)

Major Bell to Winnipeg to buy machinery for mill – *photocopied for Frank.*

1884 – Dec. 18, - *Qu’Appelle Vidette* (Marg’s transcript)

Indian Head: “A.J. Osment is busy with his men staking out the foundation of the new grist mill.”

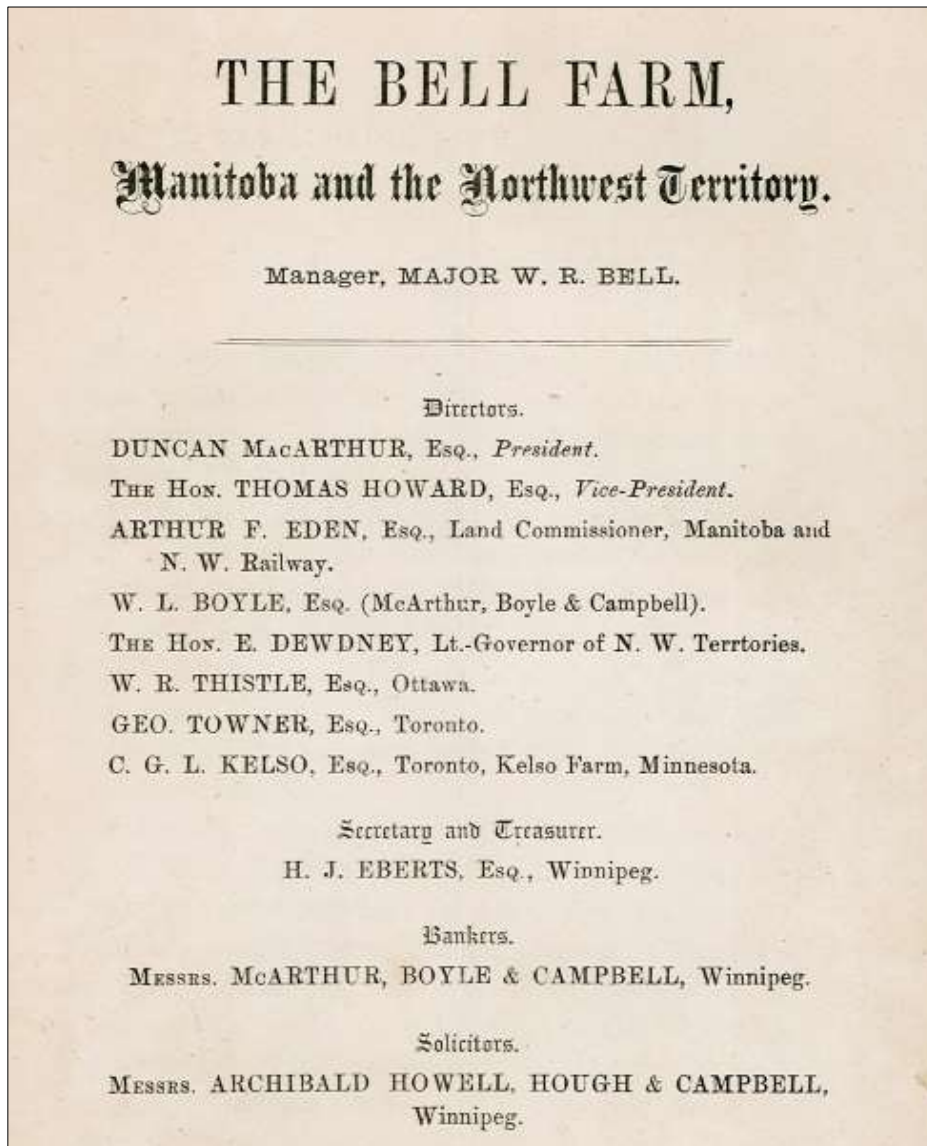
1884 – Dec. 25, - *Qu’Appelle Vidette* (Marg’s transcript)

Indian Head: “The foundations for the new mill were finished last Tuesday (16 inst)”

“Mr. and Mrs. Bell have gone south for the winter.”

A.J. Osment re-elected second vice-president of the Indian Head and Qu’Appelle Valley Agricultural Society. A.J. Osment also member of a committee presenting a petition regarding the formation of a municipality to Lt. Gov. Dewdney.

# 1885



240 kb

1885 – Jan 2 – *Qu’Appelle Vidette* – [check for details](#) – There is no Jan. 2, 1885 issue

1885 – Jan. \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - Annual meeting of Qu’Appelle Valley Farming Company delayed until March.

“The annual meeting of the Qu’Appelle Valley Farming Company is not to take place till March.”



1885 - 3 Jan. – *Adelaide Observer*, p. 12 – Review of the Bell Farm operations based in 1884 visit by Dr. Edmonds

7 The Tasmanian 1885 Jan3 Adelaide Observer

found for it.

## THE DAIRY.

### THE BELL FARM.

Leaving Winnipeg, the metropolis of Manitoba, and proceeding westward along the track of the Canadian Pacific Railway across the prairie, a run of 312 miles brings the traveller to the station of Indian Head, just before entering which the train passes along the south side of Bell Farm. This great farm is comprised in the operations of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company, and the details we are now able to place before our readers were obtained in the course of a conversation with the manager, Major Bell, during a recent visit to the farm.

The farm covers no less an area than 56,000 acres, and was organized so recently as the year 1882. Driving across the farm one notes the usual characteristics of prairie land in the form of vast plains extending almost unbrokenly before the eye, till the land disappears at the horizon; on the Bell Farm some slight undulation affords a little variation to the level monotony that prevails all around. In 1883 the area of wheat grown was 4,000 acres, which yielded an average of 20 bushels an acre from the sod—that is, without back-setting. This year, 7,000 acres were under wheat, and next year it is proposed to have 14,000 acres under this crop. The harvest is usually over by the middle of August, but, this year having been marked in the north-west territory by a cold backward season, the in-gathering of the crop was in full swing in the middle of September, so that we had an opportunity of seeing thirty-five reaping machines at work side by side. The sheaves, as they come from the self-binders, are left in the fields for a day or two and then carried to the thrashing machines, the grain from which is shot into large wooden granaries in the fields. During the winter, when work in general is slack, the granaries are emptied, and the wheat conveyed, by means of sleighs, across the snow to the elevators adjoining the railway, whence it is transferred into the freight wagons as required, and conveyed to the

The limit to the area under crop on a wheat-growing prairie farm seems to be determined by the number of acres of land which can be ploughed up in time for sowing. With the harvest work and the ploughing, the fall of the year is therefore a very busy period, which, however, is brought to an end by the setting in of frost and snow. But the frost only completes the work which the plough began, and is undoubtedly largely instrumental in securing a desirable tilth. A 3-horse team and a sulky plough, working on a 16-inch furrow, can turn up two acres a day, and the cost of ploughing on the Bell Farm is \$1 90 cents. per acre, whereas on the adjoining farm, belonging to a Manchester gentleman, and where steam-ploughing was resorted to, the cost was \$11 per acre. 1 cent = 1 halfpenny; \$1 = 100 cents = 4s. 3d. The soil is a clay loam, and is estimated to extend to a depth of 300 feet. The seed is sown on the rough fallow, which is afterwards harrowed twice or three times; it is sown broadcast in the month of March, at the rate of 1½ bushels per acre. The economy of the farm provides for a summer fallow once every three years, so that one-third of the acreage under cultivation would be left in bare fallow every third summer.

The standing corn presented a good, regular and clean appearance. The variety of wheat grown is that known as Red Fife, or No. 1 Hard, which yielded a dry, bright, and even sample. No "docking" or weeding of any kind is resorted to, and though, in the case of one field, the prairie rose seemed to have acquired undisputed possession at the beginning of June, the wheat eventually overpowered it, and was giving a good crop to the reaping machines on September 15. Of poppy, there was no track whatever, and we only saw a solitary plant of the corn-cockle, and that, too, in a field of wheat measuring seven miles from corner to corner. The straw was of fair length, and beautifully clean, being free from the faintest trace of rust; nevertheless it is burnt as it comes from the threshing machine, and the ashes are returned to the soil.

About 200 horses are maintained, and of these all that could be spared from the harvest work were employed in ploughing for next year's crop. A good heavy cart-horse costs from \$180 to \$190. In summer 135 men are employed, and in winter about half this number. Of course, with the greater average under crop next year the number of labourers must be increased. The summer labourers receive wages at the rate of \$30 a month and all found; while the resident labourer gets a cottage and one acre of land free, with \$35 a month in summer, and \$30 in winter. There are five foremen—a first foreman, who gets \$50 a month and all found, and four head foremen, who receive \$40 a month each, and all found. The farm is worked in five divisions, known as the central, the north, the south, the east, and the west respectively; and at half-past eight o'clock each evening, Major Bell telephones from his own house to each division the orders for the ensuing day.

With the machines already mentioned it was found practicable to cut up to 800 acres of wheat per day, so that at this rate the entire 7,000 acres could be cut in nine working days. As already stated, the average yield last year was 20 bushels per acre, while this year it is estimated that the yield will be 25 bushels. In 1883, wheat cost 37 cents a bushel to grow on the Bell Farm, this year it is expected to cost not more than 33 cents. This latter figure is equivalent to eleven shillings per quarter. Major Bell believes he can grow wheat and place it on the wharves at Liverpool at 20s. per quarter, this price including 8 per cent. interest on the working capital involved, anything above 20s. per quarter realized at the time of sale representing profit. This statement will no doubt take our readers' breath away, but we do no more than faithfully reproduce what we ourselves were told.

Five hundred acres of oats were awaiting harvesting; they yield from 50 to 60 bushels per acre, and are largely used for feeding the horses. A 400-acre field of flax was nearly ripe; the seed would sell for 75 cents a bushel, and the land would go into wheat. This year, 1,400 tons of prairie hay—a very different product from English meadow-hay—were gathered in. The hours of work for the labourers on the farm are from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., with one hour out. Sixty head of cattle are kept.

One of the most pressing needs of the prairie is tree shelter. Moreover, belts of trees would go far towards relieving the dreadful monotony of these boundless plains. Last spring twenty-five miles of poplar trees were set out on the Bell Farm. They cost 10 cents each, and were planted 20 feet apart, the cost per single row per mile being, therefore, \$26.

Does the Bell Farm pay? We do not know, as we have no means of determining the point. But we have brought it under our readers' notice rather as an example of the agricultural capabilities of the western prairies than as an instance of a possible commercial success. It is undoubtedly an extraordinary example of agricultural practice, and presents us with a view of farming reduced as nearly as possible to the factory system.

1885 – 7 Jan and 12 Jan – Shares in Rabbit Mountain Mining Company of Ontario

Major Bell acquired 2187½ shares in the company on Jan. 7 and a further 112½ shares on Jan. 12; giving him a total of 2,200 shares. The shares appear to be worth \$10 each at time of purchase.



146 kb



102 kb



198 kb

Rabbit Mountain Silver Mine, ca.1886

“Photograph of the mine site at Rabbit Mountain, near Stanley. At this site was the stamp mill, log houses, a general store and a small hotel. Silver was discovered in the Rabbit Mountain area in 1882. This was one of the first of a series of silver finds by Oliver Daunais, the 'Silver King'.”

(Source: <http://images.ourontario.ca/gateway/56424/data>: Gateway to Northwestern Ontario History, Thunder Bay Public Library)

1885 – Jan 20 – *Manitoba Free Press* – Grain Elevator article:

“The Pray Manufacturing Company expect to erect several other mills in this country, and have already taken the contract for one at Indian Head, which they are to complete by the 15<sup>th</sup> of May, for the Qu’Appelle Valley Farming Company, supplying engine, boilers, and all the other machinery. The mill is to have a capacity of 125 barrels per day. The erection of the building is now in progress.

Mr. Pye, the representative of the Company, goes south this morning, but will return in a few weeks to superintend the construction of the mill at Indian Head.”

1885 – Jan. 22, - *Qu’Appelle Vidette* (Marg’s transcript)

Indian Head. Contract for grist mill to Mr. George Geddes.

1885 – Jan. 27 – *Journal of the Society of Arts* – Paper by Stephen Bourne on 1884 Bell Farm tour – including 60 visitors (p. 263), and comments for other British Association members

round the bases of the hills." Thus we followed the course of the Bow river, not losing sight of the range of snow hills, until twenty miles beyond Calgary, which town is 100 miles from the present end of the line. It is south of this that the largest cattle ranches are found, on one of which the proprietor told me he had 16,000 head of cattle. Entering again the prairie land, for there was no time to deviate from the one track, the train pursued its homeward course, but was stopped at various places and points—at one to see considerable numbers of the Indians, amongst them the celebrated "Crowfoot," at another to hold Divine service on the Sunday morning, at a third to visit the Bell Farm. At this farm—extending over ten square miles—there were 7,000 acres under crop this year, and an equal area prepared for additional planting in the coming season. Conveyances were provided to drive sixty of the passengers round the field, a circuit of seven miles. The cultivation here is very simple, merely that of driving the plough through the surface, dropping the seed into the loosened soil, and then sending the reaping machine to gather in the ripened crop. Comparatively little manual labour is employed, and the few resident hands find sufficient employment in tending the stalled cattle in the winter season. One feature, indicating the economy of labour which needs to be practised, is the laying down telephonic wires from head-quarters to the houses of the different head-men, who reside at the outskirts of the cultivated fields. It was calculated by Major Bell that this year he would have produce enough to load ten railway trucks every day, from January to December. The halt for service, on the Sunday morning, was quite unique. Passing by Regina, where

duction in the fire. He said, people had come out who were gentlemanly fellows, and he had asked them to dinner, but within three months he had had to go and bail them out of the police-court, and pay their debts, or see them go to jail. It was these men who on their return spread disparaging reports of the country. He had visited the Bell Farm, and there saw 100 square miles, under conditions which Major Bell told him enabled him to send ten car-loads of wheat per day down to his railway station for England; that he could ship the wheat on the railway-car at Indian Head for 13s. a quarter, and pay eight per cent. on the capital invested. He also told him that so long as wheat fetched 27s. a quarter in Liverpool, with only the present facilities of transport, he could make eight per cent. on any amount of capital invested in the cultivation of land. The land he travelled over there was amongst the finest on the face of the earth, and men there could live the healthiest life possible, apart from those factors of refined civilisation such as could only be obtained in London or other great cities. Such a power of manufacturing wheat really meant that the present condition of agriculture in this country was not one of temporary depression; there was a revolution to come over the country, and the land now devoted to the growth of cereals and the leguminosae must go out of cultivation, and would remain out of cultivation, and fail to produce rents to idlers as it had hitherto done, until the time came when it would be utilised for villa residences and garden properties, or dairy produce farms. Mr. Walford had disclaimed the notion of throwing cold water on emigration, and yet he certainly spoke in such a way as to dishearten their poorer brethren, who ought to be encouraged to go out there, and take part in developing this great country. Any grown man, over eighteen years of age, could now go to Manitoba and have a fine farm on which there was not a tree to cut down unless he chose, half a mile square of alluvial land fit to put the plough into at once, and pay nothing but a two guinea survey fee. He could also pre-empt the adjoining half mile square of land for a sum amounting to £40. He had to pay altogether 10s. an acre for

Major CRAIGIE said he could not altogether agree with the remarks of the last speaker as to the enormous future he had opened. No one would accuse him of a desire to depreciate the great Dominion, but there seemed something in a large continent which irresistibly enlarged one's ideas or the terms in which they were expressed, and he could not help feeling that, both in Canada and the States, all accounts one heard must be taken by a careful man with great caution, and with some discount for exaggeration. He also went over the Bell Farm, but he could not agree that it would be a tempting prospect for an English capitalist to place his money in farming that particular district at the present time with wheat at 27s. a quarter at Liverpool. He did not say that a vast deal more wheat could not be grown there, but taking one year with another, and considering the risk of the seasons, and the cost of transit, which could not always be diminishing, he did not see what prospect there was of fortunes being made by sending wheat to this country at 27s. a quarter. He found within 150 miles of Winnipeg there had been ten times as much wheat raised last year as in the one previous, and he could not help reflecting what would happen if this were to go on. They had seen already how the price of wheat had gone down with increased imports from India and America, and he thought it would be both foolish and impossible to rely on that one product in the future as the emigrants' stand-by. Those who went out from this country must go in for mixed husbandry, and for producing those different productions for which that great dominion was eminently fitted. He did not

Mr. BOURNE, in reply, said he did not wish to raise the question of protection or free trade, but he did feel that in dealing with the question of emigration he was bound to point out what he believed would be an insuperable obstacle to the extensive settlement of the land, viz., that the occupants were not only saddled with the expenses of maintaining their own cultivation, and competing with low prices, but forced to pay more for all articles which they cannot grow themselves, including even the instruments of husbandry, in order to protect the manufacturers of the colony. It was not to be expected that the English public would find money to transport labourers to those soils, if, when they got there, they were exposed to these conditions, to the detriment of those who were left at home. This was a drawback which, to his mind, must be overcome before it would be feasible to send out there the large number of emigrants the colonists looked for, and without which they would suffer materially from the large expense incurred in making the railway, and opening up the country. He thought Dr. Edmunds had a little exaggerated the sanguine expectations of Major Bell. He saw that gentleman, too, but did not remember hearing the figures quoted by Dr. Edmunds. He did hear 20s. or 22s. spoken of as the price at which wheat could be delivered at the railway station adjoining the farm; and even that was called in question at the time. Certainly the

p/ 271 – Craigie

p. 271 – Bourne reply

The CHAIRMAN said he feared some misapprehension existed with regard to the Bell Farm, of which so much had been said. According to the reports of numerous gentlemen who had interviewed Major Bell, the estimates he gave of the price at which he hoped to be able to put wheat on the Liverpool market varied very considerably. The price of 20s. per quarter had undoubtedly been named to Professor Sheldon and others, and his contention was that, admitting the possibility of a great wholesale concern, growing wheat at that rate, the smaller farmers could not do so; and the natural inference was that they would discontinue or reduce the cultivation. The statement that the estimate was 27s. somewhat altered the question. He was surprised to hear it said that the soil was practically inexhaustible, and would not need manure for an indefinite period of time. He remembered when the great wheat-growing country of the United States was the valley of the Genessee, but that district had been for many years exhausted; and in like manner a large area in South Australia had become exhausted by growing wheat continuously without manure. In the immediate future he thought there would be a great increase in stock raising. It was true the severity of the winter was a difficulty, but the grass grew very long and became dried into something like hay, which the cattle found by scratching away the snow from the surface, and were thus able to subsist in the open air even in winter. As had been already said, the great lesson for people in the North-West was to vary and diversify their farming, and place it on as broad a basis as possible. The immense rush into wheat was a mere accident of moment, and probably five years hence a very different system would prevail. He could not agree

p. 272 – Chairman Lefroy’s comment

1885 – Jan. 29, - *Qu’Appelle Vidette* (Marg’s transcript)

Indian Head. “Mr. Hartsinck of Bell Farm, returned from a week’s visit to Winnipeg on Saturday evening.”

1885 – 4 Feb – *London Times* – p. 14 – Advertisement for Bell Farm agricultural college.

“FARMING in MANITOBA. – The Proprietors of The Bell Farm, N.W.T., Canada, propose opening an agricultural College, in connection with their farm. A limited number of STUDENTS – say 15, will be received., For full particulars apply within the next two weeks, to the undersigned. - W.R. Bell (General Manager, Bell Farm), First Avenue Hotel, High Holborn, 4<sup>th</sup> February, 1885”



67 kb

First Avenue Hotel: photo 1919; bombed 1940

1885 – Feb. 12, - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

Indian Head. A.J. Osment ran as councillor of new municipality of Indian Head. Lost.

1885 – 13 Feb – *London Times* – report on late 1884 visit to Bell Farm by James Edmunds, M.D., London (almost identical to his May 15, 1885 published report)



89 kb & 101 kb



1885 – Feb. 18 – *Pall Mall Gazette*, London – Major Bell and Professor Tanner interviewed by Robert Miller Christy.

### THE FUTURE "GRANARY OF THE WORLD."

AN INTERVIEW WITH MAJOR BELL.

The question of wheat production in the Canadian North-west has lately attracted considerable attention, especially with reference to its effect on the British farmer; and we have taken the opportunity, therefore, of the presence of Major Bell, the manager of what is probably the biggest farming concern in the world, to learn the results of his experience and his views on the probable effect on the mother country. The Bell Farm, belonging to the Pepplecreek River Farming Company, consists of 54,000 acres, of which some 15,000 were under cultivation last year. By a fortunate coincidence, Professor Tanner was with Major Bell when our representative called. Professor Tanner knows Major Bell's farm well, and was able to confirm in every particular what its manager said. The gist of the conversation, which well deserves the attention of all who are interested in British agriculture, is given below:—

#### THE BRIGHEST YIELD AT THE LOWEST COST.

When Professor Tanner went over the farm with me in the summer of 1884 I showed him our best 1,000 acres, and he estimated their yield at 35 bushels an acre. The Professor was a true prophet, for those 1,000 acres yielded exactly 35,000 bushels. Our average yield over the whole farm when 25 to 30 bushels an acre. As to the cost of production, the 1,000 I am going to give you are strictly inclusive; not only are labour and maintenance of all kinds reckoned in, but an allowance of 70 per cent. for depreciation of stock and implements. I want to insist on this because some of my friends when they polish their figures are not quite accurate: one will leave out seedling, another will make no allowance for depreciation. Well, when all is told—and how we tell it I will show you in a moment or two—it appears that we can get our wheat ready for shipment at a cost of 34 cents per bushel—that is, nearly 2s. 5d. of your money. The only thing to be added is the freight; and as to that, the manager of the Great Northern Railway—which will be the biggest monopoly in the world here here—assures me to say that next year the cost of freight from Winnipeg to Liverpool will be not more than 1s. a bushel. To this you must add one or two cents a bushel for the transit to Winnipeg, 50 to 70 being up to freight from Indian Head station (in the centre of the farm lands) to Winnipeg, 112, a quarter. Those are the facts; I leave you to draw your conclusions.

#### HOW IT IS DONE.—GOOD LAND GRANTS.

Considering that at this rate Canadian wheat could be landed at Liverpool at 22s. or 23s. a quarter, and remembering that the English farmer cries out when he cannot get more than 33s. a quarter, our representative drew the conclusion that the outlook for the British farmer was not very lively. Major Bell hastened, however, to add that no particular credit was due to the Canadian farmers for these remarkable results. "In the first place," he said, "we had no rent to pay. Our land has cost us about 6s. an acre, in fee simple; but this you must remember that we had to go 'far west' for it. All the good land near railways has been taken already, and costs now about 50s. an acre. But two years ago there was not a house within two or three hundred miles of us. And the land is as good as it is cheap, and we not only have no rent to pay, but we have no manure bill to set up. And then there's the climate, which is just as good as it can be. Those are good solid advantages to start with."

#### "THE BLESSINGS OF PROTECTION."

"What about taxes? Why, they are a mere bagatelle, amounting perhaps to 2s. an acre." "But does that include the taxes you pay in the shape of protection?" asked our representatives. "Protection," replied Major Bell, "is another of our advantages. Take our farm implements; well, Professor Tanner will tell you that I am quite right in calling them the best in the world, but they, like the land, are as cheap as they are good. I can not show you how the thing works. When the duty was first imposed on agricultural implements we certainly had uphill work. They were so dear that we were obliged to buy them from the States; but at the same time we could not get them properly for ourselves. The Americans had had plenty of experience in working prairie lands and knew exactly what was wanted; we did not. Well, but what happened? Why every big American manufacturer set up a branch house in Canada, and at the present moment we can buy all our implements in our own country (and Canadian 'binders,' in particular, are the best in the world) at American prices. What is the difference between England, our States and our country? Why just this; that all the capital expended in manufacturing the implements circulates in the Dominion instead of the States, and in a Canadian that is just all the difference in the world. In all countries there have free trade by all means; but in a new one depend upon what protection is the greatest of blessings."

#### FARMING BY TELEPHONE.

"Cheap and good land—unlimited sun—beautiful protection; there are the chief advantages of a new country, and you can never match us there. I mean that is somewhat novel perhaps in our management in the employment of the telephone. At eight o'clock every evening I press my button, and I am myself in communication with my divisional foremen. I give them 15 to 20 minutes each, but in each case the others hear what I am saying, though they are 4 or 5 miles apart both from me and from one another; every man must carry out my orders, right or wrong; if he does not, he is fired. Every horse, too, has its appointed task set every evening, 15 to 20 minutes; but here I am more merciful, and if a horse gives out, only the foreman need go to his telephone and tell me of it and I reduce the amount of work, taking off ten miles a day perhaps. The whole machine works in this way as easily by a single operator as if it were a matter of 100,000 men, and all the decisions about the cultivation

and the advantages of large and small farming is really rather out of date, for the telephone enables you to combine them both. The telephone—and telegraph, which is quite as applicable, I assure you, to farms as to States. Every 200 acres has a cottage on it, with a man living in it rent free and having charge of these houses. This system gives us an immense pull over other farms, such as Dalrymple's, the next biggest to ours, which are worked from a single centre, so that a team will have to go four or five miles perhaps to get to its work; that is sheer waste. These homesteads are grouped into divisions, of which there are five on the farm altogether, with a divisional foreman responsible for each. The men employed in each division report every day to the foreman, and the foreman reports to me. Local matters are left to them; imperial concerns are reserved for me at my telephone."

#### "THEIR STRENGTH IS TO SIT STILL."

"The telephone enables us to manipulate space, machinery to economize labour. It is the horses who work our farm, not the men. The horses draw the seeders, the harrows, the plough, the binder; the men merely sit behind and guide the team: 'their strength is to sit still.' This is the secret of much of our success, as you will soon see. For instance, there is an idea in some quarters that it may be possible to run India against the North-West, on the ground of the cheapness of labour in the former country. Well, we give our men long hours—(from 7 A.M. to 6 P.M.); but then, as I have told you, it is very light work, and we pay them high wages. I am all for high wages. To get good men and give them good wages is what pays best in the long run. We pay on the average about 30s. a week (and board free), and in India they say they can get labour for 10s. a day. But then just look at the difference in the quantity of labour required. One of our 'binders,' for instance, does the work of fifty Indians, and we run altogether fifty binders, at an aggregate of 2,500 Indian power! And, besides, think how much we gain too by the speed of our work in being able to take the grain just exactly at the best time. Our 100 men can work some eight hundred or one thousand acres a day. Your Indian may be all very well at cotton, but I doubt if he will ever beat us at wheat."

#### FARMING AND BOOK-KEEPING.

"I told you now," continued Major Bell, "that you might rely on my figures, and now I will tell you why." Major Bell then disclosed a "Labour Return on the Bell Farm"—an elaborate summary of every item of expenditure during the year, which we wish we had room to reproduce entire, for it could be relied upon (as Professor Tanner said) to "make the hair of any farmer in the three kingdoms stand on end." Every evening when the work in the fields is over Bell Farm becomes one vast book-keeping establishment. Each homestead reports its expenditure to the divisional foreman, and the divisional foreman reports the totals to headquarters. Each week the headquarters staff tabulates the returns into a weekly sheet. The weekly returns are next tabulated into a monthly return, and finally the monthly returns into an annual return. Here is a small section of the return for the year 1883-84, which Major Bell kindly lent us:—

	WHEAT.			FLOUR.		
	Man.	Horsepower.	Hrs.	Man.	Horsepower.	Hrs.
November.....	318.83	66	95	40.81	21	...
December.....	27.18	8.50	12	23.54	81	...
January.....	...	...	...	28.27	81	...
February.....	6.73	...	...	28.18	12.51	...
March.....	213.58	27.50	08	35.89	23.50	...
April.....	6,413.55	3,250.94	1,160.90	313.54	33	...
May.....	181.02	78.73	475.50	84	27	...
June.....	...	...	...	73.29	33.75	...
July.....	...	...	...	802.75	41.45	...
August.....	...	...	...	119.23	43.66	...
September.....	4,205.11	303.87	848	131.43	28.50	...
October.....	4,258.44	1,204.48	743.50	82.20	31.50	...
Total.....	6,923.77	2,807.37	1,972.50	952.43	337.98	17

The figures are of course in dollars and cents. There are altogether twenty-seven heads, including, besides "wheat" and "implements," given above such things as "hay," "corn," "beans," "telephone," "wood," and so forth. The last stage of all is to apportion the expenditure thus ascertained either to (1) capital account on the one hand, or to (2) the three staples, wheat, hay, and corn, respectively, on the other, and it is thus that Major Bell is able to say exactly, dividing the totals thus obtained by his expert, what his cost of production is. Decidedly, if this kind of book-keeping is desirable, the land of England wants "more brains" as well as "more money" to be put into it. And Major Bell holds that his system is not merely desirable, but essential. "Why, it is the conclusion," he said, "of the whole matter. I repeat to you it that in these days farming can only be made to pay by being put on a thorough business basis. The reason why so many farmers here in this country lose money because they don't know it till it's already lost. Why can't our English farmers, it seems to me, do it? Can they hope to compete with Canadian wheat produced at a cost of 22s. to 23s. a quarter (profit not counted)? If not, why do they not come over and join us in Canada?"

#### THE OUTLOOK FOR ENGLISH FARMERS.

"This year, indeed," Major Bell added, "we shall not see a crop more than three or four million bushels; but then you must remember that two years ago there was not a house within two or three hundred miles of us, and in five years more we shall be sending you fifteen or twenty millions. The great trade of the world is inevitably falling into our hands. There's

1885 – Feb. 19 – *Winnipeg Free Press* – (Fifty-Years Ago – Feb. 19, 1935)

“There was talk of establishing a mechanics; institute in Winnipeg. Major Bell, of the mammoth Bell farm at Indian Head, had decided to convert the large hotel on the farm into an agricultural college, and the major, passing through Winnipeg, stated to the Free Press that he was on his way to the Old Country to bring out students and instructors.”

1885 – Feb 23 – *House of Commons Debates*, p. 205-206 – Bell Farm Squatters:

1885.	COMMONS DEBATES.	205
<p>and steam, the mails would reach their destination. But, however it may be, it seems an extraordinary thing that this effort to make more expeditious transport of the mails should end so frequently, as I am told it does, in the very reverse.</p>		
<p>Motion agreed to.</p>		
<p><b>SQUATTERS IN THE QU'APPELLE VALLEY.</b></p>		
<p>Mr. LISTER moved for:</p>		
<p>Returns of copies of all correspondence between Mr. Taylor, M.P. for South Leeds, and Mr. Wood, M.P. for <del>Brookville</del>, or either of them, and the Government, respecting the claim for compensation of William McLeod, J. D. Jewitt, S. H. Stiles, John Stevenson and R. E. Coleman, or any of them, squatters in the Qu'Appelle Valley, together with copy of all reports made by the said Taylor or Wood, and either of them, respecting the said claims. Also, all correspondence between Mr. Gordon, Dominion land agent, Calgary, and the Government, and all reports made by said Gordon to the Government, respecting said claims, or any of them; also, copy of any award made in regard to said claims, or any of them.</p>	<p>and further, they complain that they have not been paid the amount awarded to them. Now, whether these gentlemen were representing the Government or not, I am not in a position to say. These people hold that they were doing so, or they would not have entered into the arbitration. They supposed they were sent there in compliance with a promise made to them in the preceding Session. At all events, the award was entered into, and they say it has not been carried out according to its terms. If such is the case, I think there is no doubt that these men have not been properly dealt with. I think that the Government, on the facts being represented, will be inclined to do to these men what is right. In the case of the pioneer settlers of this country I feel that neither this Government nor any Government is justified in doing anything which is not perfectly right, and if anything has been misrepresented—I do not pretend to say that these gentlemen did so—but if these settlers misunderstood the character in which these gentlemen went out to them, I think the Government should be prepared to give effect to the understanding of the settlers. I feel that nothing more is necessary than to bring the matter to the attention of the House and the Government, in order that these people may be justly, fairly, and equitably dealt with.</p>	
<p>He said: In connection with this matter I may say that I have no personal knowledge whatever of the subject matter of the motion, and I shall content myself with making a statement just as I have received it. The parties mentioned in the motion, along with others, were squatters in the Qu'Appelle Valley, on property now owned by the Bell Farming Company. According to the statement given to me these squatters went upon the land prior to the time the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company became the proprietors; in other words, the rights of the squatters were better in law—so they believe—than the title of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company. There was some difficulty about the squatters. The company were anxious to get them off, and the squatters having gone in and selected the lands as homesteads, were desirous of staying there. Whatever their right may have been, neither the Government nor the company undertook to enforce what they conceived to be their rights in law against these squatters. Some time during the Session of 1884 a person representing</p>	<p>Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. There can be no objection to the motion, and the papers will be brought down. The House will then see from the papers exactly what took place. Neither of the gentlemen mentioned who acted as arbitrators acted as the officers of the Government, or at the request of the Government; they acted as arbitrators between the Qu'Appelle Farming Company and the squatters. Some of these men had no legal or equitable claim. They went out, believing that the company were going to have a large tract of land, and to see what they could make out of it—a very common trick in the North-West. They set up exorbitant claims, thinking that either the Government or the Qu'Appelle Company would pay them for their real or imaginary improvements. However, some of them put</p>	

these squatters came to Ottawa and was given to understand that their claims would be settled justly and fairly. On that assurance he returned to the North-West, and during the following spring the gentlemen named in the resolution appeared on the scene in the Qu'Appelle Valley. They are, of course, warm supporters of hon. gentlemen opposite, and the statement made to me is, that they were authorized by the Government to effect a settlement of the claims of the settlers. I do not vouch for the correctness of that statement; I merely, as I stated before, give it as it was given to me. They were induced to enter into an arbitration suggested by these gentlemen, upon the distinct promise, as they say, that they would be permitted to take up other homesteads in other portions of the country, without doing any duties; that the full time that they would have to live upon the homestead would be allowed to them, and that a patent would be issued to them; further, that they would be allowed to pre-empt and would be given three years for the payment of their pre-emption. They say that on those representations they consented to the arbitration. An arbitration did take place, and I believe an award was made by Mr. Taylor, M. P. for Leeds, and Mr. Wood, M. P. for Brockville. That award, I believe, covers the points I have stated, namely, that they were to get their homesteads free, without having to live on the homestead, to be taken for any length of time, and to have their pre-emption free; and they were also to be allowed certain damages, to which they were entitled, for improvements they had made on the place. Payment under that award was to be made at a fixed time; no payment was made. It is claimed by the settlers that the Government repudiated the arrangement made by the arbitrators, that they insist on these people having to live on the place some eight months, and on the usual and ordinary terms, so far as the pre-emption is concerned;

their cases or grievances into the hands of one of these gentlemen—the hon. member for Leeds. These two gentlemen went up there, one acting as arbitrator for the settlers, with their consent, and the other acting on behalf of the Qu'Appelle Company. They made an equitable award, I suppose, between the Qu'Appelle Company and the settlers. I have no doubt they have acted impartially, and have no reason to doubt that the award is satisfactory to most of the settlers. I believe there are only two or three of the whole of them who object, and they object because they were found not to have had either an equitable, a legal, or a moral right.

Mr. WOOD (Brockville). My name having been alluded to by the hon. member for Lambton (Mr. Lister), I feel called upon to offer a few words in explanation. Over a year since a gentleman named Johnson appeared in Ottawa, representing certain parties known as squatters in the Qu'Appelle Valley. At the same time, Major Bell, the manager of the Bell Farming Company, was also in Ottawa. Before that there had been disputes between certain squatters and the manager of the Bell Farming Company, it having been claimed by the squatters that they were in possession of the land there before the grant was made to the company, which statement was denied by the company. Neither party, as has been truly said, ever entered an action at law, on the one part to assert their right, or on the other, to eject the squatters from the soil. My hon. friend, Mr. Taylor, the member for South Leeds, had been acting for the squatters, three or four of them having come from the riding he represents. Major Bell, as many of you know, is an old Brockville man, and I acted in the capacity of his solicitor for some years. Well, it was proposed, either by the person acting for the squatters, or by the company, I forget which, that the questions in dispute between the company

and the squatters should be referred to arbitration. At that time the squatters selected the hon. member for South Leeds, because he had taken a very active part in trying to get for them all the concessions from the company he could, and in laying before the Government their alleged rights. I having acted for Major Bell for some years, as I have stated, he very naturally asked me if I would act as arbitrator, in the event of their not agreeing upon the terms. I consented to do so, not supposing at the time that it would be necessary for us to visit the North-West in order to settle the differences in question. I supposed that the evidence which had been taken, I think by Mr. Stephenson, the colonization agent there, would have been used, or that the squatters would have made declarations and sent them down here, and that in that way we should have been enabled to adjudge upon their claims. However, it was found necessary that Mr. Taylor and myself should go up there, view the premises and the improvements these men had made, see personally for ourselves the ground of their complaints, and look into, as far as we could, the rights of each of the parties. Now, Mr. Speaker, I knew nothing of the Government whatever in this transaction. I had no communication, one way or the other, with the Government or with any official of the Government; and although it is the right of any hon. member of this House to move for returns, I question whether it is the right of any hon. member to even intimate, simply on the strength of a letter from a dissatisfied party to an award, that another hon. member of this House has been connected with the Government in a transaction of this kind or any other, because that is a very serious matter. I, as a lawyer, would be very poorly qualified to represent my position as such at the bar, if I did not know that that was coming very close to the line of a violation of the Independence of Parliament Act. I had no more to do with the Government in that transaction than I had with any individual outside of this House; and the same can be said of my hon. friend, Mr. Taylor. Now, Sir, I do not know that an award was ever yet made

this question. So far as I am concerned, I am satisfied that every scrap of paper relating to our conduct in connection with it should be printed and laid before the public, then it will be found that the squatters on the Bell Farm have been fairly dealt with by the arbitrators.

Mr. LISTER. I desire to say to my hon. friend who has just spoken that I have no knowledge myself of the matters referred to in the motion. As I understand, it is the right of every man to have his grievances, or his supposed grievances, brought before the Government, and it is the duty of a representative to bring these matters before the House and the country. Now, the hon. gentleman has stated that he was not acting with the Government; that he had no communication with the Government or any official of the Government. I am bound to take his answer; but it is somewhat remarkable that the award these hon. gentlemen made provides that lands belonging to the Government shall be given to these squatters. If there was no authority for it, why was that a portion of the award? My hon. friend says it is not in good taste for me to refer to the position he occupied there. I cannot agree with him; I take issue with him on that point. While I do not charge him with having been guilty of any impropriety—I can scarcely believe he would be; I am bound to take his word for that—I say I have, at the same time, a perfect right to make this statement fully, fairly and frankly, as I think I have done.

Mr. WOOD (Brockville). If my hon. friend will allow me, I will mention now what I omitted to say when on my feet before. I never, to any one of these squatters, represented that we were acting for the Government. It never entered my mind to do so, because it would be quite contrary to the fact; and so far as the recommendation made by my hon. friend and myself with regard to those squatters, and the claim they should have to other lands, is concerned, we understood that the position the Government took was that if the squatters would settle their difficulties with the company and agree upon whatever damages the company should pay them, if any damages there were, the

<p>which was satisfactory to all the parties to that award. In this case, the reference was drawn by the solicitor acting for the squatters. We had nothing to do with that; and so far as our conduct as arbitrators is concerned, when we were in the Qu'Appelle Valley, I can only say that we worked as hard, I think, as we ever did before in our lives. We viewed all the improvements those men had made; and my hon. friend, as a practical man and a farmer, was very well fitted to look after their rights, while I, though acting on behalf of the Bell Farming Company, had no object in doing anything but what was right by the squatters. I have no hesitation in saying, as a lawyer, that I do not think they had even the shadow of a legal right. I do not say that in any spirit of bias against them, for I have nothing against them; but my assertion has been borne out by every lawyer who has looked into their claims; and I venture to assert that if the hon. member for Lambton (Mr. Lister) investigates them, he will find that, with one single exception, the case of a squatter named Thompson, these men had no claim to an inch of the ground on which they lived. But we did not enter into that arbitration on any such theory. We knew that some of these men, at all events, thought that they were right, and it was in that spirit that we entered upon our duties. So far as the award itself is concerned, I am satisfied that it is a liberal one. There were a few of the squatters who had no shadow of a right whatever. They merely came into the Qu'Appelle Valley, and finding a few squatters there who did think they had a right, they joined forces with them and were quite content to remain there as squatters, standing midway between Winnipeg and the Rocky Mountains, and by complaining of their alleged grievances, injured our country. Now, I do not regret that my hon. friend has brought up Mr. Wood (Brockville).</p>	<p>Government would allow them, upon other land they might take up, the time they had spent upon the land of this company. This was agreed, we understood, upon the principle that these men thought they were acting within the law, and this accounts for the fact that in the award that was made—a copy of which I have here—the suggestion was made by the arbitrators that the time these men had spent upon the Bell Farming Company's land should be allowed them. We had no interest in inserting that clause, but did so in order to assist the squatters, if we could. I may add, to show the good faith in which we acted, that it was only a few days ago this was mentioned to the hon. member for Lambton (Mr. Lister) by my hon. friend, and the hon. gentleman would not have known anything about it had he not learned it from my hon. friend.</p> <p>Motion agreed to.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>SECTION B ARBITRATION.</b></p> <p>Mr. CASEY moved for:</p> <p>Copies of case submitted to the section B arbitrators by the Government and the contractors respectively; of the evidence taken before the arbitrators, and of all the records of that arbitration not already brought down.</p> <p>He said: The reason I think it desirable to get the copy of the case submitted by the Government, and that submitted by the contractors, is that in the agreement of submission, signed on behalf of the Government and the contractors, no particulars are mentioned, except in regard to one part of the claims, which I may briefly describe as coming under the head of re-measurement and re-classification of the work. All the claims for consequential damages arising out of the delay in the completion of section 15 and</p>
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1885 – *Nor-West Farmer* – Vol., 4, No. 1 – [check for details](#)

1885 – March 5, - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

**“COMMUNICATUIONS. Indian Head.** It is said that the large hotel here is to be made use of as an agricultural college. How happy some of our farmers would be if they could only get hold of a pupil paying one hundred pounds premium and five dollars a week for his board. The college will be in connection with the Bell Farm; but a good many people seem rather doubtful whether a thorough knowledge of scientific farming is likely to be acquired on a farm of which the manager is an ex-lumber merchant, and the foreman is an ex-policeman.”

1885 – March 12 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* – Letter from Ebznbo about Bell Farm, and mentions Mr. Spearman as Bell Farm foreman.

**“Letters to the Editor. – [We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by correspondents. – Ed.]**

**Indian Head.** To the Editor of the *Vidette*:

We have in our midst an individual who undertakes to make personal attacks upon someone every week, especially members of the municipal board. It seems to be a tremendous grievance to his highly cultivated composition that the electors of Indian Head should elect such a lot of green men as he is pleased to call them. In places where I have lived in Ontario and Manitoba the Clerk was considered the proper person to publish the proceedings of the municipal board for the benefit of the electors; but no doubt, the Clerk has requested our worthy correspondent to report the proceedings for him, seeing that he has such a giant intellect, and is such a mighty

man with the pen. And he goes on to tell us that the large hotel owned by the Bell Farming Company is going to be turned into an agricultural college, and also that a good many people are doubtful whether scientific farming can be acquired on a farm where the manager is an ex-lumber merchant and the foreman an ex-policeman. No doubt the manager and foreman were not born under such favourable circumstances as our correspondent – with a silver spoon in his mouth or a Latin grammar in their hand. Major Bell rose from a lumber merchant to manager of one of the largest farms in Minnesota, and the farm payed well under his management; and I consider it shows enterprise in the Major in rising to the position he now holds. As for the foreman, Mr. Spearman, I can say nothing, only he must have a little more energy now than some around the Head, or he would not be foreman of the Bell farm. He winds up his article by saying that chess is becoming very popular in the village, and that there are some fair players (one, I suppose he meant). Who plays chess? Why, our respected correspondent can be found, when he is not composing articles for the press with one of his much-despised municipal officers. Ebznbo

#### 1885 – March 13 – *St. Paul Globe* – Grain Elevator article

“Quite a number of millwrights have lately gone out of the city, and as spring opens and millwright work increases outside, the number will undoubtedly increase. The Pray Manufacturing company this week sent a crew of eight to Indian Head, in Manitoba, where it is building a mill. Among the number was M. McDonald, foreman, and Messers. Griffin, Chapman, Rose, Collins and Griffin. . . . .”

#### 1885 – March - Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
160	March 13, 1885	Milton ... <i>Paddy</i>	Fort Qu'Appelle	Saskatchewan

#### 1885 – North-West Rebellion / Uprising / Conflict / Resistance – occurred between March and May, 1885

1885 – *Aberdeen Press and Journal*, p. 9 (as report 11 May, 1937) – James Duncan, blacksmith – may also have worked as blacksmith at the Bell Farm, as he did at Qu'Appelle with the Transport Service headed by Major Bell:

“Mr. James Duncan, who went to Canada in 1882, lived a life of great activity there and was prominent in business and other spheres. In the North-West Rebellion in 1885 he served as veterinary and blacksmith under Major Bell, of Indian Head, and saw much service. Settling in Melita, Manitoba, he established a farm implement business, gave excellent service in the Town Council, was President of the Board of Trade, and was prominent in church work as an elder and Sunday school superintendent. He was a Justice of the Peace and a past grand master of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba of Oddfellows. Mr. Duncan, who was eighty years of age, is survived by Mrs. Duncan.”

1885 – March 7 – *The Tasmanian*, p. 10 – *FIELD* reporter Robert Miller Christy's Bell Farm article – fences with barbed wire – Christy visited the Bell Farm on Aug. 20, 1884 and signed the Visitors Register - # 55-56.

### THE BELL FARM, ASSINIBOIA

Mr. Robert Miller Christy writes to the *Field* an interesting description of a visit paid to the above farm. At a time when the price of wheat is, not only apparently but actually, lower than it has ever been before, it will surely be a matter of great interest to English farmers and others to hear something of the gigantic scale on which preparations are being made to grow this cereal in the much-talked of Canadian North-west, as also something of the price at which it is confidently asserted this can be done.

In the early part of July last I had occasion to proceed from Winnipeg westward to Medicine Hat, on the Saskatchewan, and it was whilst upon this journey that I managed to spare a day for the purpose of carrying out a long-cherished design, which was to pay a visit to the "Bell Farm." The following facts are gleaned partly from notes made upon the spot, and partly from information since supplied by Major Bell.

The Bell Farm lies upon the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, 312 miles west from Winnipeg, and close to the town and station of Indian Head, in the Territory of Assiniboia. It is the property of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company Limited, which was formed in the year 1881, but takes its name from its able manager, Major W. E. Bell, who resides upon the spot. The entire area contained within the boundaries of the farm is 64,000 acres, or 100 square miles; but of this a number of sections are the property of the Hudson's Bay Company, while others are reserved by Government for educational purposes, so that the area actually covered by the farm is not more than about 54,000 acres.

When, on the 29th of April, 1882, the company obtained possession of the land by special Act of Parliament, it lay more than two hundred miles distant from the nearest railway station. The conditions under which such a large tract was made over to a single private company were that the company should have the land at the exceedingly low price of 1½ dols. (5s) per acre, on condition that not less than 4000 acres were to be broken and brought under cultivation annually for five years, or 20,000 acres in all; but these conditions have probably been found too irksome, for I understand that application is about to be made to Government for their cancellation. The general scheme of the company is to bring the land under cultivation, dividing it up into about 258 separate farms of 213 acres, each provided with a good house and buildings. These farms will then be offered for sale to the men who have charges of them, at a valuation price, payable in instalments over a term of years. At present the selling price is from 12 dols. to 20 dols. per acre. The whole of the land is intended ultimately for sale, though the home farm of about 20,000 acres might be retained by the company if found to be sufficiently profitable. In any case it is expected to be all under cultivation two years hence—i.e., at the end of 1886.

Roughly speaking, his system of farming, when complete will be as follows: Each "section," or square mile, will be divided into three portions of 213 acres each, one of which it is intended to fallow yearly. While the company retains possession of the land, a foreman will be set over about every twelve farms or four sections. I will next speak of what has been and is being done.

The plough commenced to "break" the rich black prairie soil on June 15, 1882, and, before winter set in, 2400 acres were ready for cropping the following year. In the middle of August the farm buildings were commenced. As early as possible next spring one-half of the broken area was sown with oats, and the other half with wheat. The latter gave an average yield of 19½ bushels per acre, and such of it as was sold (local demand taking nearly the whole of it for seed) realised an average price of one cent over the dollar (4s 2½d) per bushel. Some of the later-sown wheat was injured by an early frost on the night of Sept. 7, which did a vast amount of damage, not only in the Canadian Northwest, but also in many of the States of the Union much further to the south. In the same year (1883) 4600 additional acres were broken, making 7000 in all, and the following spring (1884) about 5500 acres were sown with wheat, 1200 with oats, and the remainder with flax. This crop was, of course, still on the ground at the time of my visit, and it was a really fine sight which the major was able to show me during the very enjoyable drive round his farm which he was kind enough to take me. The longest furrow to be seen was two miles in length; several single pieces of wheat covered more than 1000 acres each; while the largest extended to 1500 acres. In all directions ploughs were at work tearing up the splendid virgin soil, for an additional 5500 acres were to be broken

before winter, and the entire year's ploughing was expected to reach 12,000 acres.

The whole of the ploughing is done with horses, of which 198 are now kept. The major will not hear of steam being used, urging (with much force) that, as he would require just as many horses as he now keeps to sow and reap his crops, they may just as well do the ploughing also, instead of standing idle for a good portion of the year while the ploughing is being done by steam. The ploughs used are all stinkies and gang-ploughs, on which the men ride. Each turns more than one furrow to a depth of rather over three inches, and each is required to travel sixteen miles a day; indeed, it is said that twenty miles forms an average day's work when no accident occurs. The width of the furrows is from fourteen to sixteen inches. At the time of my visit forty-five ploughs were breaking over one hundred acres per day. Breaking is continued during the whole of the summer. After the sod has lain awhile to rot, the disc-harrows are passed over it diagonally, cutting it up into losenge-shaped pieces, and leaving it ready for seeding first thing in the spring. "Hack-setting" is dispensed with on the farm. As much as possible of the stubble-ploughing is done in the autumn, so that the seed may be got in the moment after the frost takes its departure in spring. Sowing is done with broadcast seeders, a kind of combination between drill and harrows. Last year twenty-two self-binders by Deering, of Chicago, were used in getting in the crops; but to these there have this year been added twenty-five more by an excellent Canadian firm, the Messrs. Harris, of Brantford, making forty-seven in all. About sixty head of cattle and some pigs are at present kept upon the farm. The barb wire, so common on the prairies, is largely used for fencing.

Part 3 [154 kb](#)

Part 4 [174 kb](#)

To me the major's statements as to what it cost him to produce a bushel of wheat were of chief interest, as doubtless they will be to most readers. He assured me that, as near as he could calculate, the cost to him of growing and placing on the rail at Indian Head each bushel of wheat that he produces is from 30c. to 33c. (1s 3d to 1s 4½d), which he also estimates to be 40 per cent. lower than the cost to the average settler. Further, he says that not more than 7c. to 9c. (3½d to 4½d) per bushel is paid for manual labour. At the present time the freight from Indian Head to Montreal (1746 miles) is 33c. (1s 4d) per bushel, but it will be lower next year, and Major Bell is confident that when, two years hence, the whole of his home farm is under the plough he will be able to lay prime hard "Red Fyfe" wheat, of the excellent quality usually produced in the north-west, down in Liverpool at a cost price of 75c. (3s 1½d) per bushel, or 8dol. (35s) per quarter, or even lower.

The following calculations, though they may not give any very valuable results, will be interesting, as showing the magnitude of the operations which Major Bell carries on. A plough having a single share only, cutting 12in. wide, would require to travel eight and a quarter miles in order to plough an acre. If the whole of this year's ploughing were to be done with one such plough, it would require to travel 99,000 miles, or about four and one-eighth times round the globe, which would occupy nearly sixteen and a half years at the rate of two acres per day, or nearly thirty-three years if oxen were used, and one acre a day only were ploughed. If a single team were to have started to cut this year's crops with a 5ft-swarth machine, and to have travelled twenty miles per day, they would have taken 577 days to accomplish the work. When the entire home farm is under cultivation, the estimated yield of wheat will be upwards of half a million bushels, which would require a train consisting of over one thousand of the ordinary grain-cars to carry it all away.

Part 5 [117 kb](#)

Part 6 [122 kb](#)

1885 – March 13 – *Montreal Gazette*, p. 7 – Interview with Major Bell (from *Pall Mall Gazette*) – in 11 parts

**THE FUTURE "GRANARY OF THE WORLD."**

An interview with Major Bell.

[From the *Pall Mall Gazette*]

The question of wheat production in the Canadian Northwest has lately been receiving considerable attention, especially with reference to its effect on English farming; and we have taken the opportunity, therefore, of the presence in London of Major Bell, the manager of what is probably the biggest farming concern in the world, to learn the results of his experience and his views of its probable effect on the mother country. The Bell Farm, belonging to the Qu'Appelle River Farming Company, consists of 24,000 acres, of which some 12,000 were under cultivation last year. By a fortunate coincidence, Professor Tanner was with Major Bell when our representative called. Professor Tanner knows Major Bell's farm well, and was able to confirm in every particular what its manager said. The gist of the conversation, which well deserves the attention of all who are interested in British agriculture, is given below:—

**THE HIGHEST YIELD AT THE LOWEST COST.**

Part 1 52 kb

**THE HIGHEST YIELD AT THE LOWEST COST.**

"When Professor Tanner went over the farm with me in the summer of 1883 I showed him our best 1,000 acres and he estimated their yield at 35 bushels an acre. The professor was a true prophet; for those 1,000 acres have yielded exactly 35,000 bushels. Our average yield over the whole farm is from 25 to 30 bushels an acre. As to the cost of production, the figures I am going to give you are strictly inclusive; not only are those and maintenance of all kind reckoned in, but an allowance of 20 per cent. is made for depreciation of stock and implements. I want to insist on this, because some of my friends when they publish their figures are not quite accurate; one will leave out feeding, another will make no allowance for depreciation. Well, when all is told—and how we tell it I will show you in a minute or two—it appears that we can have our wheat ready for shipment at a cost of 34 cents per bushel—that is nearly 1s. 6d. of your money. The only thing to be added is the freight; and as to that, the manager of the Canadian Pacific railway—which will be the biggest monopoly in the world here long—authorizes me to say that next year the cost of freight from Winnipeg to Liverpool will be not more than 1s. a bushel. To this you must add three or four cents a bushel for the transit to Winnipeg, so as to bring up the freight from Indian Head station (in the centre of the main lands) to Liverpool to 11s. a quarter. These are the facts; I leave you to draw your conclusions."

**HOW IT IS DONE.—GOOD LAND GRATIS.**

Part 2 66 kb

**HOW IT IS DONE.—GOOD LAND GRATIS.**

Considering that at this rate Canadian wheat could be landed at Liverpool at 22s. or 23s. a quarter, and remembering that the English farmer cries out when he cannot get more than 33s. a quarter, our representative drew the conclusion that the outlook for the English farmer was not very lively. Major Bell hastened, however, to add that no particular credit was due to the Canadian farmers for these remarkable results. "In the first place," he said, "we have no rent to pay. Our land has cost us about 6s. an acre, in few words; but then you must remember that we had to go 'far west' for it. All the good land near railways has been taken already, and costs now about 50s. an acre. But two years ago there was not a house within two or three hundred miles of us. And the land is as good as it is cheap, and we not only have no rent to pay, but we have no manure bill to run up. And then there's the climate, which is just as good as it can be. These are good solid advantages to start with."

**"THE BLESSINGS OF PROTECTION."**

Part 3 50 kb



"THE BLESSINGS OF PROTECTION."

"What about taxes? Why, they are a mere bagatelle, amounting perhaps to 1d. an acre." "But does that include the taxes you pay in the shape of protection?" asked our representative. "Protection," replied Major Bell, "is another of our advantages. Take our farm implements; well, Professor Tanner will tell you that I am quite right in calling them the best in the world, but they, like the land, are as cheap as they are good. I can soon show you how the thing works. When the duty was first imposed on imported implements we certainly had uphill work. They were so dear that we could not make them properly for ourselves. The Americans had had plenty of experience in working prairie lands and knew exactly what was wanted; we did not. Well, but what happened? Why every big American manufacturer set up a branch house in Canada, and at the present moment we can buy all our implements in our own country (and Canadian binders, in particular, are the best in the world) at American prices. What is the difference between despoiling our duties and removing them? Why just this; that all the capital employed in manufacturing the implements circulates in the Dominion instead of in the States, and to a Canadian that is just all the difference in the world. In an old country have free trade by all means; but in a new one depend upon it that protection is the greatest of blessings."

FARMING BY TELEPHONE.

Part 4 64 kb

FARMING BY TELEPHONE.

"Cheap and good land—unlimited and beautiful protection: these are the natural advantages of a new country, and you can never match us there. One feature that is somewhat novel perhaps in our management is the employment of the telephone. At eight o'clock every evening I press my button, and put myself into communication with my divisional foreman. I give them perhaps ten minutes each, but in each case the others hear what I am saying, though they are 4 or 5 miles apart both from one another; every man must carry out my orders, right or wrong; if he does not, off he goes. Every horse, too, has its appointed task set every evening, 16 to 20 miles a day; but here I am more merciful, and if a horse gives out, why the foreman only has to go to his telephone and tell me of it and I reduce the animal's task, taking off two miles a day perhaps. The whole machine is worked in this way as easily by a single overseer as if it were a matter of thirteen and not of 12,000 acres; and all the discussion about the comparative advantage of large and small farming is really rather out of date, for the telephone enables you to combine them both. The telephone—and federation, which is quite as applicable, I assure you, to farms as to States. Every 200 acres has a cottage on it, with a man living in it just free and having charge of three horses. This system gives us an immense pull over other farms, such as Dalrymple's, the next largest to ours, which are worked from a single centre, so that a team will have to go four or five miles perhaps to get to its work: that is sheer waste. These homesteads are grouped into divisions, of which there are five on the farm altogether, with a divisional foreman responsible for each. The men employed in each division report every day to the foreman, and the foreman reports to me. Local matters are left to them; imperial concerns are reserved for me at my telephone."

"THEIR STRENGTH IS TO SIT STILL."

Part 5 86 kb

"THEIR STRENGTH IS TO SIT STILL."

"The telephone enables us to annihilate space, machinery to economize labor. It is the horses who work our farms, not the men. They draw the seeder, the harrow, the plough, the binder; the men merely sit behind and guide the team: their strength is to sit still. This is the secret of much of our success as you will soon see. For instance, there is an idea in some quarters that it may be possible to run India against the Northwest, on the ground of the cheapness of labor in the former country. Well, we give our men long hours—from 7 a. m. to 11 p. m.; but then, as I have told you, it is very light work, and we pay them high wages. I am all for high wages. To get good men and give them good wages is what pays best in

Part 6 37 kb

**FARMING AND BOOK-KEEPING.**

"I said just now," continued Major Bell "that you might rely on my figures, and now I will tell you why." Major Bell disclosed a "Labor Return on the Bell Farm"—an elaborate summary of every item of expenditure during the year, which we wish we had room to reproduce entire, for it could be rolled upon (as Professor Tanner said) to "make the hair of any farmer in the three kingdoms stand on end." Every evening when the work in the fields is over Bell Farm becomes one vast book-keeping establishment. Each homestead reports its expenditure to the divisional foreman, and the divisional foreman reports the totals to headquarters. Each week the headquarters staff tabulates the returns into a weekly sheet. The weekly returns are next tabulated into a monthly return, and finally the monthly returns into an annual return. Here is a small section of the return for the year 1883-84, which Major Bell kindly lent us.

	WHEAT		
	Area	Measure.	Hires.
November	318.83	85	08
December	27.18	8.00	32
January	...	...	...
February	5.52	50	4
March	152.19	97.49	04
April	1,423.51	2,882.4	1,108.50
May	181.92	78.75	175.00
June	...	...	...
July	...	...	...
August	...	...	...
September	2,005.11	972.87	806
Quarter	2,005.41	1,202.41	722.96
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,046.77</b>	<b>2,894.07</b>	<b>2,072.90</b>

	IMPROVEMENTS		
	Mans.	Hut's	Horse.
November	48.81	13	...
December	39.04	13	...
January	30.57	12	...
February	38.11	12.50	...
March	95.93	22.50	...
April	112.84	34	...
May	82	57	...
June	76.49	33.75	1
July	100.45	41.45	8
August	110.23	42.88	8
September	120.43	40.00	...
October	84.00	31.92	...
<b>Total</b>	<b>852.42</b>	<b>330.04</b>	<b>17</b>

the long run. We pay on the average about 50s. a week (and house free), and in India they say they can get labor for 1d. a day. But then just look at the difference in the quantity of labor required. One of our "hindus," for instance, does the work of fifty Indians, and we run altogether fifty hindus, of an aggregate "1,500 Indian power." And, besides, think how much we gain by the speed of our work in being able to take the grain just exactly at the best time. Our 100 men can work some eight hundred or one thousand acres a day. Your Indian may be all very well at cotton, but I doubt if he will ever beat us at wheat."

**FARMING AND BOOK-KEEPING.**

Part 7 35 kb

Total 552.42 330.04 17

The figures are of course in dollars and cents. There are altogether twenty-seven heads, including, besides "wheat" and "improvements" given above, such things as "flax," "oats," "roots," "telephones," "wood," and so forth. The last stage of all is to apportion the expenditure thus summarized either to (1) capital account on the one hand, or to (2) the three staples, wheat, flax, and oats respectively, on the other, and it is this that Major Bell is able to say exactly, dividing the totals thus obtained by his output, what his cost of production is. Doubtless, if this kind of book-keeping is desirable, the land of England wants "more heads" as well as "more money" to be put into it. And Major Bell holds that his system is not merely desirable, but essential. "Why, it is the condition," he said, "of the whole matter. Depend upon it that in these days farming can only be made to pay by being placed on a thorough business basis. The reason why so many farmers lose money is because they can never tell at a given moment what they are spending; they lose money because they don't know it till it's already lost. The question for English farmers, it comes to me, is: Can they hope to compete with Canadian wheat produced at a cost of 22s. to 23s. a quarter (profit not counted)? If not, why do they not come over and join us in Canada?"

**THE OUTLOOK FOR ENGLISH FARMERS.**

Part 8 73 kb

Part 9 63 kb

**THE OUTLOOK FOR ENGLISH FARMERS.**

"This year, indeed," Major Bell added, "we shall not send just more than three or four million bushels; but then you must remember that two years ago there was not a house within two or three hundred miles of us, and in five years more we shall be sending you fifteen or twenty millions. The wheat trade of the world is inevitably falling into our hands. Twenty years ago the Eastern States from New York to Illinois were exporting wheat; to-day they are importing it; and in another twenty years the Western States which are now exporting will be our customers too. That is so far good for the English farmers, no doubt; but by that time we shall be able to serve you all, and you will be no better off. We have no iron, and we shall not see other industries encroaching on agriculture as is the case in the States. No, wheat is our specialty, and we shall come in time to supplying the world."

**THE "GRANARY OF THE WORLD" AND THE COLONIAL QUESTION.**

Part 10 47 kb

**THE "GRANARY OF THE WORLD" AND THE COLONIAL QUESTION.**

"Perhaps you do not believe it: but then you must remember what Sir John Macdonald says, that the English know no more about Canada than a coltish does about conic sections. There is the ocean between you and us, and only an imaginary line between us and the United States; but Americans and Canadians are as different for all that as oil and water, and we should rise in arms against any encroachment of America as eagerly as we volunteer against any encroachments of England. You have given us a succession of excellent Governor-Generals, that is something. Lord Lansdowne is doing capital, and you never understand in England how much we liked Lord Lorne for his own sake; he was a worthy successor to Lord Dufferin, and what more need one say? But we want something more than good Governor-Generals, and Earl Grey's suggested colonial council of advice would be a capital beginning; but whatever scheme you may select, my plea I should have thought was worth paying in order to preserve to the British Empire the granary of the world."

Part 11 52 kb

1885 – March 19 - Qu'Appelle Vidette p. \_\_, col, 2 & 3 – comments on Bell Farm reports in VIDETTE

"In last week's VIDETTE there appears a letter from one of a set here who regard anything said against the Bell Farm as blasphemy. I do not get my instructions from the clerk of the

council, and no one knows what I have said in my weekly correspondence until the VIDETTE appears. If “Ebznbo” objects to my statements, let him show that they are false. He must hold very curious opinions if he considers our councillors to be old, experienced hands, or that a knowledge of scientific farming is likely to be acquired on the Bell Farm. However unpleasant it may be to men like “Ebznbo,” I mean to speak out the truth; and as long as I stick to the truth I feel sure that I need have no fear of such individuals as “Ebznbo.”

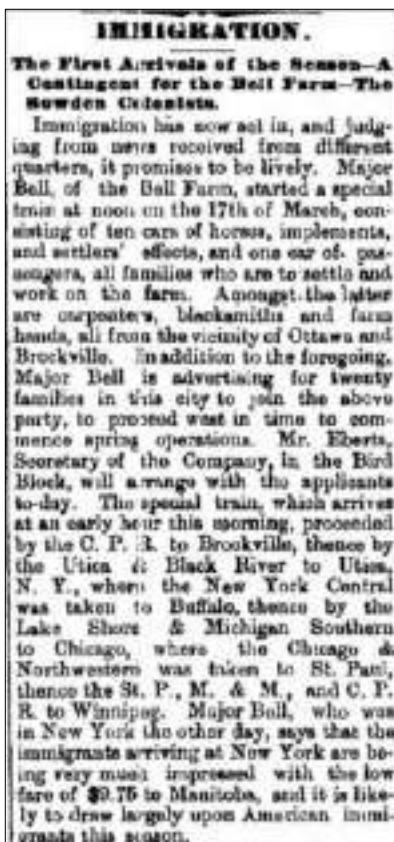
1885 – March 19 – *Brandon Mail*, p. 3 – Agricultural College at Bell Farm

“**GLEANINGS.** It is reported that the Bell Farm Company have under consideration a scheme to convert the Bell farm into an Agricultural college for the Northwest territories. Major Bell has gone to England in the interests of this movement.”

1885 – March 24 – *Regina Leader* – p. 2 & 4 – Major Bell, manager, Interviewed

(from the *Pall Mall Gazette*)” – see [March 13 – Montreal Gazette](#) – better quality scan

1885 – March 24 – [redacted] - newspaper article indicates that Major Bell was in New York to send off a shipment of rail cars to Indian Head, with settlers and equipment. Looks like he did business in New York after he returned from England.



143 kb

1885 – March 26 – *Brandon Mail*, p. 8 – carpenters off to Indian Head to help build Bell’s Grist / Flour Mill

“A number of carpenters left for Indian Head where they are to work on the construction of the new grist mill of the Qu’Appelle Valley Farming Company.”

1885 – March 26, - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

Marg: "Riel Trouble" Lots of news, including "some 96 NWMP stopped at Fort Qu'Appelle on route to the Saskatchewan District" securing supplies etc.

1885 – March 27 – *Winnipeg Daily Times*, 44-45 - The North West Rebellion - Supplies

"The Hudson Bay Co. are furnishing the supplies, and are doing it most thoroughly. Chief Factor Adams personally superintending the work. A strong force was busily engaged all last night packing and fixing up the necessary material, and this morning six car loads of provisions and supplies, consisting of bacon, biscuit, tea, coffee, sugar, rice, canned goods, and general groceries, blankets, etc. were loaded and ready for transportation. Two hundred pairs of moccasins have also been furnished. Beside this, eight car loads of oats and four car loads of pressed hay were loaded. A larger quantity of the latter would have been taken, but that there is an unlimited supply at Qu'Appelle. Although orders were only furnished night before last, the H. B. Co. have furnished forage for the teams at the different stations between Qu'Appelle and Humboldt, and beyond that point, the necessary hay and oats will be furnished in advance of the troops. Two hundred and forty teams of horses with the necessary vehicles, will also be provided by the Hudson's Bay Co., and Mr. Wm. Clark, who is in charge of this department, has already secured all that is necessary. There will be 140 teams taken from Winnipeg, and 100 more will meet the force at Qu'Appelle. Of these, forty will probably be supplied from the **Bell Farm**, although their doing so would greatly interfere with the spring seeding on that mammoth institution. There is no snow in the west; waggons\* will be used for transporting the men to the scene of action."

1885 – 27 March – Extracts from Sir John Lister-Kaye Diary (transcript by Hugh Henry)

Friday, March 27

1:24 a.m. go to Station Hotel, awake(?) at 7 a.m. start on St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba R.R at 8:15 a.m. Wheat firm(?) & higher on War ramps England and Russia. Talk of Russia – Turkish alliance. Lord Dufferin advises treaty with Constantinople. Dine or rather luncheon at Grand Forks. Arrive Winnipeg 7:00, find 90<sup>th</sup> Reg. and some cavalry starting off with General Middleton for Qu'Appelle where they will branch off to march 220 miles direct north to Fort Carleton which is in hands of Riel. After dinner am introduced to Mr. Everts [Hermann Eberts], secretary & treasurer to Bell Farming Co. tells me Mr. Nelson master mason Winnipeg will undertake my work. For lumber F ? Banks, Mr. F. Patton Man'r [manager] will sell about \$17 per 1,000 ft. Mr. Kerr, Passenger agent C.P.R. will tell me of carpenter, will send at 2 cents per mile, about \$7 to Balgonie. He considers 1,250 lbs. animals to be worth \$165 in Ottawa and to be best - \$15 Ottawa to Balgonie. C.P.R. give through rate from east. Arrange with them, Buford Sulky Plough is best. Mast Buford & Burwell, J.H. Burwell sec & treas. St. Paul, refer to Bell - for harness S. Borbridge & Co. Ottawa \$23 per set, 57 sets supplied last year. MacGregor Bros. horse dealers Winnipeg, reliable men. Van Horne declares R.R. to be through September 22. He will give rates 25 cents per bushel Winnipeg to Liverpool, so through rate Balgonie to Liverpool 31 cents per bushel. Everts [Eberts] takes us on to Club and puts us up for 10 stags(?) Excellent glass of sherry, some talk and go over to hotel, very well satisfied.

1885 – March 31 – *Winnipeg Daily Times*, p. 75-76 – Help from Indians refused

"Col. Herchmer has left Regina for Battleford via Swift Current, from whence there is a trail. He has a force of seventy men with him and will push ahead as rapidly as possible. The scouts who

are to precede the expedition from this point number eighteen, and are composed, with two exceptions, of white men, several being from Stonewall. The other two are halfbreeds. A number of the Indians who helped to recover the horses stolen from the **Bell Farm** last summer offered their services but they were refused. Capt. French will command them. There is still a great demand for teams.”

1885 – March 31 – *Winnipeg Daily Times*, p 79 – Letter from Major Bell to Eberts, at Indian Head

“Mr. Eberts received a letter this morning from **Major Bell**, in which it was stated that Piapot and his tribes are quiet, and no trouble is anticipated. The Major states that the resources of the farm were largely drawn upon in furnishing the transportation equipment for the volunteers.”

1885 – April 1 – Mayor Bell appointed to Transport Office, Qu'Appelle (as reported in 1886 Sessional Paper No. 80

**MILITIA OFFICERS and Non-combatants appointed as Transport and Supply Officers during the campaign in the North-West Territories, 1885—Order of the House of Commons, 31st March, 1886.**

Names.	Rank and Corps or Non-combatant.	Date of Appointment.	Rate of Pay.	By whom Appointed.	By whom Recommended.	Total Payment to each.	Remarks.
			\$ cts.			\$ cts.	
W. B. Jackson.....	Lt.-Col. Deputy Adjt. Gen. Mil. Dist. No. 1	March 28..	4 85	Minister of Militia & Defence	.....	759 21	Pay to August 31, 1885.
H. Lamontagne.....	do do	do 28..	4 85	do do	.....	350 64	do June 9, 1885.
W. B. Forrest.....	Hon. Lt.-Col. Superintendent of Stores do 1	do 28..	6 00	do do	.....	20 00	do April 15, 1885.
D. A. Macdonnell.....	Lt.-Col. unattached	do 28..	4 85	do do	.....	222 20	do May 27, 1885.
H. G. Bala.....	Lieut. Governor General's Foot Guards...	April 3..	2 50	do do	.....	628 61	do September 12, 1885
J. W. Woolsey.....	Non-combatant	do 3..	3 20	do do	.....	448 08	do July 25, 1885
W. Hudson.....	Captain retired list	do 7..	3 96	do do	.....	449 24	do August 20, 1885.
H. Keighan.....	do	do 11..	3 96	do do	.....	616 28	do September 12, 1885
E. A. Whitehead.....	Lt.-Col. retired list	do 10..	4 85	do do	.....	656 41	do August 31, 1885
Alex. McGibbon.....	Non-combatant	May 2..	3 20	do do	.....	809 70	do December 12, 1885
James Anderson.....	do	April 4..	3 20	do do	.....	901 00	do November 29, 1885.
M. J. Feron.....	do	May 9..	2 50	do do	.....	558 45	do September 26, 1885
H. Hamilton.....	do	April 15..	3 20	Major General Strang	.....	458 02	do October 7, 1885.
F. J. Dixon.....	Lieutenant Royal Military College	May 18..	3 20	Major General Launce	.....	159 59	do August 31, 1885.
Joshua Wright.....	2nd Battalion, Supply Officer	March 30..	3 20	Minister of Militia & Defence.	.....	479 70	do July 23, 1885.
S. L. Sedore.....	Warden Manitoba Penitentiary	do 26..	6 20	Major General Middleton	.....	1,033 20	do August 31, 1885.
J. H. G. Secretan.....	Non-combatant	do 26..	6 00	do do	.....	798 00	do do
W. R. Bell.....	Major retired list	April 1..	6 00	do do	.....	610 01	do July 25, 1885.
H. W. Leonard.....	Lieutenant Royal Military College	do 6..	3 20	.....	.....	491 79	do July 17, 1885.
M. K. Kirwin.....	Captain, retired	March 31..	2 24	.....	.....	270 18	do July 8, 1885.
J. G. Falless.....	Non-combatant	do 24..	2 20	.....	.....	129 57	do June 29, 1885.
W. White.....	do	April 12..	3 20	.....	.....	364 00	do July 24, 1885.
H. Swinford.....	Captain, Quarter-Master 20th Battalion	March 12..	3 20	Major General Middleton	.....	506 70	do August 31, 1885.
P. O. Richards.....	Non-combatant	do 23..	3 20	.....	.....	608 18	do September 22, 1885
S. L. Stannan.....	Yeck and Simcoe Battalion	June 12..	2 24	.....	.....	27 84	Acting Supply Officer in absence of M. J. Feron

**EUGÈNE C. PANET,**  
*Deputy Minister of Militia and Defence.*

DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE,  
OTTAWA, 3rd May, 1886.

4th Victoria.  
Sessional Papers (No. 80)  
A. 1886

[NOTE: See entry about 2/3 down for Major Bell: served from April 1 to July, 31, 1885]

635 kb

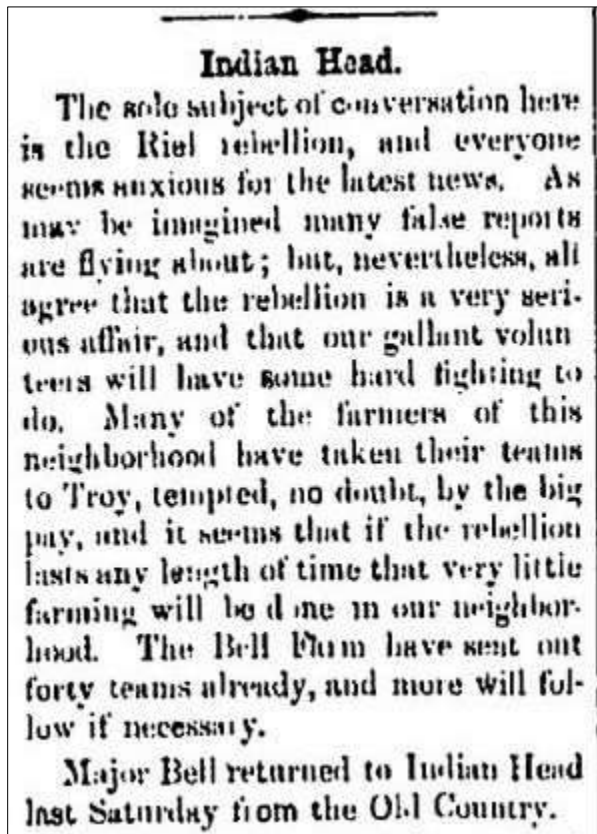
1885 – April 2 – *Winnipeg Daily Times*, p. 112 – Tom Routledge, former manager of Bell Farm

“VIRDEN. April 2.—At a meeting of citizens, held here last night, it was proposed to form a home guard for protection in the event of an attack being made upon the town by the half-breeds and Indians in this vicinity. Fifty volunteers were enrolled and formed a company, with **T. Routledge** as captain and Dr. Young as lieutenant. The company will be increased to one hundred members. A telegram was sent to the Minister of Militia for seventy five hand arms and ammunition.”

1885 – April 2 – *Calgary Weekly Herald*, p. 2 – Major Bell in Ottawa from England

“**The Northwest at Ottawa** - Major Bell arrived from England this morning. He reports that emigration proposals are most encouraging and that a large immigration into the Northwest is certain. He found a better feeling in relation to the country prevailing in the rural districts of Great Britain, and has, by interviews in the local press, disseminated much useful information among the farmers there.”

1885 – April 2, 1885 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* - Bell Farm teams for Rebellion; Bell back from England



103 kb

1885 – April 3 – *Winnipeg Daily Times*, p. 123 – report on transportation service during Rebellion

“**THE TRANSPORTATION SERVICE**, the most important part of the expedition, is under the direction of a most efficient officer. At present the service consists of nearly four hundred teams, and the number will have to be increased to one thousand before the march is commenced in earnest. Every available team in the Qu’Appelle valley has been pressed into the service, and agents have been dispatched to Regina, Moose Jaw and other adjacent points to secure more horses. The difficulties of operating this part of the expedition are great. Owing to the scarcity of fodder in the country to be traveled, **EVERYTHING HAS TO BE CARRIED ALONG**, and a team will eat more than it could start out with in making the journey to Prince Albert. The men are carried in wagons, ten to each team. To carry five hundred men, their arms and baggage, eighty five teams would be required. One Hundred and forty teams would then be required to carry forage for these eighty five teams. Even then the one hundred and forty teams have not been fed, and the thing compounds itself in an alarming manner. Mr. Bedson has therefore decided to establish a **SYSTEM OF SUPPLY STATIONS** along the line of march as far as Humboldt, arranged in 20 mile approximate intervals. Teams are now hauling north to

Touchwood. Every station is to be stocked and a **CHAIN OF TEAMS KEPT RUNNING** from one to the other. A wagon will leave the base of supplies and be taken by one team to Qu'Appelle. Another will take it to the next station, and so on until it reaches its destination. By this means the wagons will be kept moving continually. The teams will be confined to short stretches. Dr. Rutherford, of the Portage, is the "vet" of the service. The horses are all in good condition, but one case of mange has been discovered. **MAJOR BELL'S HORSES.** Major Bell, of the Bell farm, complained to your correspondent over the loss he is sustaining by the expedition. Fifty teams have been pressed into the service much against his will, and only thirty are left on the farm to seed ten thousand acres. One thousand acres of wheat were put in last Monday, but the snow fall since will delay seeding. There will be very little seeding in the Qu'Appelle Valley. The farmers are all with the expedition with their teams. They expect to earn from three to four hundred dollars each and afterwards do a lot of breaking for next year."

1885 – 6 April – *The Leeds Mercury* – criticism of Bell's farming statistics by Williams and the *Mercury* editor

In connection with the subject of our future wheat-supply, a letter written to the *Times* by Mr. S. Williamson, M.P., is very interesting. He takes exception to the extraordinary estimates of the cost of producing wheat in Manitoba, and sending it to this country, published by Major Bell, manager of the great Bell Farm in Qu'Appelle Valley. This gentleman professes to be able to grow wheat at about 11s. a quarter, and to sell it in Liverpool for 22s. or 23s. Mr. Williamson tells us he has had some experience in growing wheat in the Red River Valley, where the land is quite as fertile as it is in Manitoba, besides being much nearer to a great milling centre, and he testifies that prices lately current have been ruinous. While Major Bell puts the cost of producing wheat at 34 cents a bushel, Mr. Williamson declares that a continuance of the late quotation of 46 cents a bushel in elevators near the farms of the Red River Valley would soon ruin everybody and put the land out of cultivation. As to the freight by land and sea to this country, Mr. Williamson puts it at 25s. a quarter, instead of 11s., which is Major Bell's estimate. Reckoning 17s. a quarter as the cost of producing the wheat in Manitoba, and adding the cost of carriage, he makes the amount 42s. a quarter in Liverpool. I am persuaded that Mr. Williamson's estimate is a great deal more trustworthy than Major Bell's. The former has no interests to serve by exaggerating the cost of producing and conveying wheat, while the latter may have "axes to grind," in the shape of raising capital in this country to prop up the gigantic enterprise with which he is connected. Moreover Mr. Williamson's arguments are in effect supported by the evidence of a Manitoban correspondent of the *Mark-lane Express* who laughs at Major Bell's figures, and says that any practical farmer in the Canadian North-West will tell us that it costs 50 cents a bushel to produce wheat there under the most favourable circumstances. He further states that people in the neighbourhood of the Bell Farm, of whom he is one, have

no faith in the prosperity of the great business, and he asks the Major to say frankly whether he got more than the seed on a portion of the farm last harvest, and whether the wheat was not so badly injured by the frosts that occurred just before harvest as to be unfit for milling purposes. Such brag as Major Bell's does harm by making English wheat growers despair of their industry, and by tempting men to go to the Canadian North-West under altogether delusive hopes. None of the extravagant statements as to ability to supply this country with wheat at less than 30s. a quarter, or, indeed, at less than 40s., will bear examination. We have seen how ruinous recent prices have proved to American growers, and how the export from India has fallen off. But the latest evidence of a similar kind comes from the Argentine Republic, one of the numerous "future granaries of the world." The *Buenos Ayres Standard*, a paper noted for its glorification of the resources of the River Plate countries, now warns farmers there that they cannot hope to compete with North America and India in supplying European markets with wheat. Time after time since the *Leeds Mercury Weekly Supplement* was started I have assured its readers that no country in the world could profitably send wheat here to sell at less than about 40s. a qr. and that at such a price the profit would be too meagre to be tempting. In the light of recent experience, I am more confident than ever in the truth of that statement. In rare seasons of fruitfulness, nearly all over the world, we may have wheat below 40s. in the future, as in the past; but, in any series of years—say a decade—we shall see the price more frequently rising to 50s. a quarter, than sinking to 30s.

Part 1 306 kb

Part 2 261 kb

1885 – April 9 – Diary of George Murphy, Qu'Appelle (published in Gleichen Call, Sept. 1, 1920, p. 2)

"**MAJOR BELL** - Tenth Royal Grenadiers of Toronto, under Grassett came in today by special train. Forty men of "C" school under Captain Wadmore, left last night for Swift Current to await orders. Major Bell is now here in the transport office. E.N. Armit, came in from Winnipeg, and will probably take charge of the transport from Swift Current."

1885 – April 11 – *Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 2 – the North West Farmer report on Bell Farm

“The North-West farmer says that the Bell farming company have under consideration a scheme to convert the Bell farm into an agricultural college for the North-West territories. If this is done, Major Bell had better take a course of lessons. He has succeeded by a couple of years of experiments and with considerable loss to his backers in proving that he does not know how to run a large farm profitably. After an agricultural college course of a couple of years he might be able to run a small farm more successfully.”

1885 – April 14 – *Regina Leader*, p. 4 – Bell to Swift Current by train for military transport service

“Major Bell, of Indian Head, went down by Sunday night’s train on his way from Swift Current to Qu’Appelle Station, in connection with arrangements for the transport service for the troops now in active service in the North-West.

1885 – April 16 – *Calgary Nor’Wester*, p. 2 – Forty of the Bell Farm teams off to Troy (Qu’Appelle) for military duty.

“**INDIAN HEAD:** The sole subject of conversation here is the Riel rebellion, and everyone seems anxious for the latest news. As may be imagined many false reports are flying about; but, nevertheless, all agree that the rebellion is a very serious affair, and that our gallant volunteers will have some hard fighting to do. Many of the farmers of this neighbourhood have taken their teams to Troy, tempted, no doubt, by the big pay, and it seems that if the rebellion lasts any length of time that very little farming will be done in our neighbourhood. The Bell Farm have sent out forty teams already, and more will follow if necessary.”

1885 – 18 April – *Ortago Witness*, New Zealand – critical report of Bell Farm optimism, reprint of an original article published in “this country” [England] on Feb. 26, 1885.

CANADA AS A WHEAT PRODUCER.

Major Bell, manager of the famous Bell Farm, in Qu’Appelle Valley, North-west Canada, is now on a visit to this country, and he has been giving free vent to what is called “Canadian brag.” His country is, he says, the “future granary of the world.” We have heard that of so many countries that we don’t think much of it. Major Bell proposes to grow wheat at about 11s a quarter, and to be able to lay it down in Liverpool at 23s per quarter, with profit. That I decline to believe, though Major Bell may be perfectly convinced that it is true. Quite recently I had a letter from a correspondent who is settled in the North-west of Canada, and he sends a very unflattering account of the prospects of farmers in that greatly-belauded country. All through the North-west, he says, the yield of the crops last harvest was only about half what was expected, and the price of wheat of medium quality has been only about 38 to 43 cents per bushel; while frozen wheat, of which there is a great deal, is unsalable, and oats have been selling at 26 cents a bushel. In short, he says that farming does not pay in the Canadian North-west any better than in other parts of the world. The length of the winter is the great objection to the country, as from November to April nothing can be done on the land, and my correspondent goes so far as to say that, in order to crop a hundred acres of land, it is necessary to have two hundred acres broken, so as to crop half of it in alternate years. I do not believe in a “future granary of the world” existing where wheat is frozen just before being harvested.

245 kb



1885 – 20 April - *Lyttelton Times*, New Zealand – comparison of Bell Farm with New Zealand farming, and refers to the North-West Rebellion as “a little difficulty with Indians”.

MAJOR BELL, of the Canadian North West, has been giving the *Pall Mall Gazette* his experiences of farming in that region, on which he founds his theory that the Canadian North West is destined to be the granary of the world. The Major is qualified to speak with authority as a wheat-grower, for he is described as managing with great success a farm of 54,000 acres, of which 13,000 last year were made to raise grain. Whether he is a prophet is another matter altogether. What we are concerned with are his figures, which the *Pall Mall*, not a bad judge of men and things, says can be relied upon. Major Bell says that he produces wheat in the Far West and lands it in Liverpool for 22s to 23s a quarter, exclusive of profit. Of this the cost of production on the farm is 11s 4d per quarter, or 1s 5d per bushel. This is certainly not within 10d per bushel of the cost to the New Zealand farmer of producing his corn and sending it to London. Major Bell has not many equals in the Canadian North West as a manager, and the average price of land will not always remain as low as the price of his land, viz., six shillings per acre. Moreover, though the Major's figures may be absolutely trustworthy, perhaps some of his raptures about the Canadian climate (one of his great factors) will have to be dis-

counted liberally when an average of years comes to be taken. There is, besides, a little difficulty with Indians which, having arisen since Major Bell spoke on the subject, naturally did not enter into his calculations. He has also omitted the sale expenses. Still the result of his farming, for which he vouches, is sufficiently remarkable to engage the serious attention and study of the farmers of every country which depends on supplying the English market.

There is enough in the contrast to prove that our farmers must produce more cheaply, that the whole community must back their demand to have their produce taken at less cost to the Coast, and that the shipowner must choose between lower freights or none at all.

Not many of our farmers will be able to reach the scale on which Major Bell does things. To subdivide a big block of country into numerous small patches of cultivation, clap a hut, stable, a squad of men and horses, and some implements upon each patch, and manage the whole by telephone, requires a farm to be as big as a principality. But every one can imitate the order and method of this great Canadian agriculturist. Everyone can plan his work carefully in the morning, and see what it has cost him at night. Every one can carry enterprise into his farming, as the Americans did

when their wheat became unsaleable. Every one can study his rotation of crops, and, above all things, work his farm with his head. The railways, on their side, should aim at getting more money from the travellers by diminishing the passenger rates, so as to be able to carry produce at lower freights. Shipowners are mysterious people, and as unsafe to advise as those who, being unlearned in insurance, always clamour for reduced rates. But we may be sure that they will consult their own interest better by encouraging trade than by discouraging it, and there is only one way of encouraging it. But all this is of temporary purpose. By all means increase the area of good management, and diminish the cost of freights by land and sea. These, when we get them fairly, are permanent benefits. At the same time we must bear in mind that we have an advantage over Canada which quite turns the scale in our favour. The Canadian North West, as Major Bell admits, having no other resources,

must always remain a wheat producing, wheat exporting country. New Zealand, glorying in a vast variety of resources, is destined one day to find markets within her borders for all her produce. May that day come soon.

Part 1 [226kb](#)

Part 2 [220 kb](#)

Part 3 [212 kb](#)

1885 – April 23 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* – Major Bell to Swift Current on Transport business

“Major Bell, of Indian Head, went down by Sunday night's train on his way from Swift Current to Qu'Appelle Station, in connection with arrangements for the transport services for the troops now in active service in the North-West.”

1885 – April – [Visitors Register](#)

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
161	April 6, 1885	Adolph Boisevain	Amsterdam	Netherlands
162	“	George R. Harris	Boston, Mass.	United States
163	“	G.W. <i>Vis</i>	St. Paul, Minn.	United States

164		?????.....	?????.....	
165	April 22, 1885	H.J. Eberts	Winnipeg	Manitoba – same as # 31 – Hermann J. Eberts
166	April 22, 1885	<i>A. Miller</i>	Winnipeg	Manitoba
167	April 29, 1885	W.H. Forrest	....., Quebec	Lt. Col. William H. Forrest
168	“	H. Swinford, N.W.F.F.	Winnipeg, Manitoba	NWFF = North West Field Force – part of General Middleton’s forces sent out to quell the NW Rebellion led by Louis Riel

## 1885 – May – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
169	May 13, 1885	Melgund	No Information	Lord Melgund was the Chief of Staff for General Middleton during the 1885 campaign.

1885 – May – *Nor-West Farmer* – Vol. 4, No. 9 – [check for details](#)

1885 – May 13 - [\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_](#) (Source ?) – [check for details](#)

Arriving at Troy at 10 pm on May 12<sup>th</sup>, Melgund found that the train to Winnipeg had just left and that he would have to spend the night. The next morning, he heard that Middleton’s forces had defeated the Métis the previous day. With this sudden change of circumstances, Melgund “... went over all transport arrangements with Major Bell today ... drove out with Major Bell in afternoon to Bell Farm and dined there.” That night, at almost 11 pm, he “... left Indian Head by Pullman.” He returned to England that fall.

(Extract from article by John Kort, *Indian Head*, 15 Sept. 2019)

1885 – 15 May - *Southland Times*, New Zealand: Interview with Major Bell while in London, England, 1884  
<http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/cgi-bin/paperspast?a=d&d=ST18850515.2.26> - Doctor Edmunds of the British Association 1884 tour. (almost identical to his Feb. 13, 1885 London Times interview)

### Wheat-Growing in England and Canada.

Dr. Edmunds medical officer of health, St. James', Westminster, writing on this subject, says:—Last autumn I devoted a long holiday of two months chiefly to visiting the farmers who are now dotted about upon the vast alluvial plains of North-West Canada. I spent a week in wandering about at the end of the track of the Canadian Pacific Railway in the Rocky Mountains of British Columbia; I spent another week in the city of Winnipeg; I went about among the still living old Scotch settlers who went out with Lord Selkirk, and who still crop their original farms upon the beautiful banks of the Red River, where he so wisely located them; and, among other places, I visited the Bell Farm. I have also had the advantage of prolonged conversations with Major Bell during his present visit to London. The Major tells me that he would gladly attend any meeting to give an account of his agricultural operations, and to answer inquiries; but as only a few people can hope to come into personal contact with him I may, perhaps, shortly call attention to the data with which we are now furnished.

Part 1 193 kb

The Bell Farm contains 100 square miles of rich alluvial land, practically all fit to put the plough into, and perfectly unencumbered by timber. Its location is in Assiniboia, upon the Canadian Pacific Railway, 312 miles west of Winnipeg. It has its own railway station, which is known as Indian Head, and the whole of this land is being rapidly brought forward for wheat-growing—the school and public building sites only excepted. At the railway station is an elevator where the grain is lodged, and from which it is delivered into the railway cars—each car-load being 500 bushels, and weighing 30,000 lbs. The wheat is sold by the bushel of 60 lbs. weight, and not by measure, inasmuch as large quantities of wheat can be weighed out much more easily than they can be measured. Some of the wheat grown on the Bell Farm has weighed 66 lbs. per bushel, but in such case the farmer has the advantage of selling by weight. With poor wheat he would have to bear the disadvantage. Comfortable houses are already built for the laborers; the Major and his family have a handsome residence such as would satisfy a gentleman farmer in England. The horses and cattle are properly

Part 2 173 kb

housed; a perfect system of book-keeping shows every detail of the expenditure and other produce; and there are around the Major a number of active young fellows—his pupil-assistants—who are learning to farm with a view to start for themselves at the end of a year or two:

During the 1884 season the Bell Farm has raised 130,000 bushels of grain, and there have been in crop about 6000 acres. The acreage in crop and the produce of the season 1885 are expected to be double those of last season. The cost of the wheat thus grown has to-day been kindly written out for me by the Major. The figures are in decimals of a Canadian dollar—*i.e.*, in cents, of which 100 are equal to 93 6 English halfpence. The cost as given below is per bushel of 60 pounds weight, delivered from the Bell Farm elevator upon the railway station at Indian Head. It is as follows:—Labor, .07 dols.; horses, .036 dols.; maintenance of laborers, &c., .033 dols.; cost of seed, amount written off capital account for depreciation of horses, implements, stock, &c., and 8 per cent. upon the purchase money, &c. of the land in crop, .20 dols.; total, .34 dols.

Part 3 163 kb

Now, multiplying the 34 cents by eight we get the net cost per quarter of the wheat as 272 cents. This is 11s 2d English money. But this is wheat receivable from the elevator at the Indian Head railway station, 312 miles west of Winnipeg, and we have to provide for its transport to England, a distance of 5000 miles. The cost of transport from Indian Head to Liverpool during the last year has been, Major Bell tells me, 11s per quarter, and during the coming years the same rate of freight is expected to rule. This, then, makes the fine hard red Manitoba wheat deliverable in Liverpool so as to pay 8 per cent. in capital invested in land in North-West Canada, so long as wheat shall not fall below 22s or 23s per quarter.

Part 4 110 kb

It is obvious that, as soon as these facts are realised by English farmers, they will begin to consider whether they shall struggle along and lose money in attempting to grow cereals and pulse in England, or whether they shall take their capital, found themselves new homes in this great Canadian territory, and grow rich. To our idlers at home who have been living upon rents derived from arable land the facts are not less interesting. To them it means a denudation of which no adequate conception has yet dawned upon their minds. They will have to work or to starve. It is hardly too much to say that these facts mean a silent but inevitable revolution in the position of the territorial aristocracy of England.

Part 5

111 kb

1885 – May 21 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

Marg: Lots of details about capture of Riel.

**Indian Head:** "Our 'home guard' are to have a prize rifle match on May 23 . . . handsome prizes."

"Our farmers who have teams in the Transport Service were very happy today by receipt of their first month's pay. Business, in consequent, is rushing."

"Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company's mill is to be open for business on June 1<sup>st</sup>. This event has been anxiously looked forward to for some time by our farmers, as they expect a market for their good wheat. "

1885 – May 23 – *Toronto Globe* – report on suitability of Major Bell to be the main Transport Officer at Qu'Appelle.

This point, as the basis of supplies, has suddenly become a busy centre, and already buildings are being rushed up as a consequent impetus from the forwarding that here goes on. Major Bell, of the Bell Farm, is chief transport officer here, and a man more fit for the position could not be found from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Quick to act, and pleasant to act with, the busy work goes on as if the system had been perfected by years of practice. To the uninitiated nothing appears easier than to load a team and send it forward with instructions to return for more when unloaded, but when it is remembered that the distance to be travelled is some 350 miles out, and 350 miles in, and on

#### A 500 MILE JOURNEY

A team will consume its own load in supplies, the conundrum is:—What then is done to reach the front with full supplies? The ingenuity of Major Bell has contrived the system which Lord Melgund has credited with being the finest he has ever seen, and to which he has given special attention, that advantage may be taken of the lesson hereafter should necessity require it in his Lordship's experience. Briefly, it is this. It is estimated that but about one-quarter of everything that leaves the base of supplies reaches the front, the balance being consumed in transit, eaten by horses and men, with nothing on the road but water, a team travelling 500 miles, having nothing of its load left at the end of the route. In order to employ the full capacity of each team, stations or depots are established along the supply route at intervals of distance of 20 or 25 miles, according as the trail is good or bad, and the same teams are kept going and coming between these distances, none of them going through. One hundred teams leave the base of supplies, which is Troy, every alternate

day, or 50 a day. These hundred draw loads to the second depot (Fort Qu'Appelle) for the 90 teams which leave there for the next northern station, and these 90 teams do likewise for the 80 teams that leave the latter depot for its next northern depot, and so on, until at the last station 40 full loads will be the complement left of the 100 full loads that left the base of supplies. It is calculated that the 10 extra teams on each 20 miles, beginning from the base of supplies, will draw

#### FORAGE AND SUPPLIES FOR THE TEAMS

and men upon the 20-mile route next nearer to the front, until finally 20 loads a day are delivered into camp. This system can be so adapted to circumstances that the supply can be doubled by moving the whole force one station ahead, and the good feature of it is that every team is carrying its full load at the end of its particular stage. The following illustrates the system:—

#### CLARK'S CROSSING.

Teams, 40—Malignand.  
Teams, 50—Humboldt.  
Teams, 60—Winn.  
Teams, 65—Swintford.  
Teams, 70—Bedou.  
Teams, 80—Houghton.  
Teams, 90—Fort Qu'Appelle.  
Teams, 100—Troy.

#### Railway.

This same system is adopted on

#### THE BATTLEFORD TRAIL.

which has been temporarily stopped on account of the raid made by the Indians, of which you will have fully heard before this letter reaches

1885 – May 30 – Adelaide Observer – Australian comments on the Bell Farm, by S. Williamson, M.P.

### WHEATGROWING IN MANITOBA.

Mr. S. Williamson, M.P., writes to the *Times* :—

Some weeks since you published a letter on the above subject from Dr. Edmunds, giving a wonderful account of the capabilities of Manitoba for the growing of wheat. Dr. Edmunds spoke in glowing terms of the chances for English colonists with a few hundred pounds of capital, and assured intending colonisers that Major Bell could grow wheat 300 miles west from Winnipeg, and place it in Liverpool for 22s. to 23s. per quarter, including a charge of 8 per cent. on the capital invested.

I have no reason to doubt the bona fides of Dr. Edmunds in drawing these glowing pictures. I do not suppose he has any axe to grind, to use a significant Americanism. But I do think that great caution should be exercised in circulating information which may lead decent men to leave happy homes in England in the pursuit of what is likely to be altogether illusory, while they are more likely to reap, instead of comfort and riches, only bitter trials and disappointments.

I have myself had some experience in the growing of wheat in the Red River Valley. The land there is quite as good as land in Manitoba. It has the advantage of being not very distant from the great flour-milling centre Minneapolis, and I can testify that the prices lately current have been ruinously low. While Major Bell states his cost at 34c. per bushel, I am satisfied that a continuance of the late quotation of 45c. per bushel placed in elevators near the farmers in the Red River Valley would soon ruin everybody, and put the land out of cultivation. Singular to say, the 34c. calculation is exactly that given to me by Mr. Dalrymple, of the Great Fargo Farm, in the Red River Valley, in 1879, and experience proves it to have been utterly deceptive. With a splendid season, and a heavy crop of nearly 30 bushels per acre, the calculation may stand; but with all the contingencies of bad weather, deteriorated quality, extra labour,

crops running from say 13 bushels one year to 17 another, 20 bushels a third, and 15 bushels a fourth year; and allowing for summer fallowing every fifth or sixth year, it is in my opinion impossible in Manitoba or Minnesota to grow wheat under a cost of from 16s. to 18s. per quarter, taking one year with another.

Then Dr. Edmunds tells us that this wheat, grown 312 miles west from Winnipeg, can be carried on to Liverpool for 11s. per quarter. This is likewise deceptive. I do not know what the Canadian Pacific Railway may occasionally be tempted to do to induce emigrants to go out, but I would advise all such to get ample assurances from the Company before they attempt to grow wheat in the very centre of North America 1,500 miles from the sea. Founding on a quotation obtained recently from the freight agent at Winnipeg, I give the following calculation :—

Winter freight Moosomin to Montreal, per 100 lb., 84½c., and Bell Farm to Moosomin, 200 miles further, say 15½c., together \$1 per 100 lb., equal to, per 480 lb., 19s. Transshipping at Montreal, sacks, ocean freight, insurance, and delivery in Liverpool, say 6s.; cost of carriage, 25s.; cost of wheat, say 17s.—together 42s. a quarter for wheat worth to-day in England about 35s. per 480 lb.

The Canadian Pacific line is a very costly one between Winnipeg and Port Arthur, and whatever abatements they may occasionally make it is clear they have at least to charge the cost of transit. That cannot under any circumstances be small, and the bulk of the grain is, of course, carried in the late autumn and winter.

Dr. Edmunds, as I have said, has painted a glowing picture. Let me, in corroboration of my words of caution, submit the following gloomy one from a farmer in Manitoba—a man of excellent character. It is contained in a letter dated Manitoba, December 11, 1884, addressed to an old friend in England. He says :—

“The times have indeed been hard with me, and seem to grow harder with a steady

progression. They have arrived at a crisis that has determined me to take a decisive step if I am to get out at all of this miserable 'Slough of Despond.' Owing to a variety of causes this country is in a state of the most abject depression, so that what I say of myself is only a picture of nineteenth-twentieths of all around me. One cause is the destructive character of the last two seasons—early frosts in summer and autumn—which have ruined the crops so extensively, rendering the wheat inconvertible into flour and unmarketable. I have a field of ten acres now standing uncut which would not pay for the reaping, while the oat crop had to be cut so green as to be only fit for fodder. . . . Altogether the country is in a most deplorable state, and I do not think there are 5 per cent. of the farmers who are not utterly insolvent, with their farms mortgaged and dropping into the hands of the Loan Companies. . . . As regards ourselves, we have had little to brag about in the eye of the world, with little but rags for raiment, and our food mainly a few vegetables, sometimes no bread, and generally no butter or sugar."

Although it is not my wish and very far from my interest to write discouragingly regarding the immediate future of Manitoba, I think it my duty to write these words of caution, for I am convinced that letters such as Dr. Edmunds's may be the cause—unintentional, of course—of bringing much more misery than happiness to the majority of those who read and act upon their suggestions.

Part 3 [117 kb](#)

1885 – June 4 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

*(Marg: still "Rebellion" news)*

Indian Head: Rifle match between country and town home guards as part of celebration of Queen's Birthday. (May 24) – includes names of some home guard members

"Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company are building a dam across Spring Creek near north side of railway for water supply to their new flouring mill." Mill will have 50 hp engine and is expected to be open for business soon.

Cricket club formed. A.J. Osment vice president.

"All the boys who were out on transport service will be home in a few days, and red painting will then be in order."

1885 – June 11 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

Marg: Rebellion updates.

Indian Head: "The new flouring mill machinery was started today (Tuesday) by Mr. Pye of Minneapolis, Minn. Everything worked splendidly and grinding will be commenced in a few days."

1885 – June 15 - *Manitoba Free Press* – Grain Elevator article:

"**INDIAN HEAD** – The First Flour. Indian Head, June 14 – The Bell farm flouring mill was opened for public grists on Friday. Jack, chief of the Assiniboines, presented the first wheat for grist, and carried away the first flour made at Indian Head. As the wheat he had was growing on his reserve, it speaks well for his Indians."

1885 – June 18 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

"Indian Head. Count d'Esterhazy and G. Dory de Tobbahaza, Hungarian nobles, and A.F. Eden of Winnipeg, were guests of Mrs. and Major Bell this week." (*Marg: both signed the Bell Farm Visitors Register*)

"The flouring mill is now open to the public. Mr. D. Cook, of Minneapolis, is in charge of the machinery, and Mr. Harvey, of this place, is looking after the rollers. The first public grist received into, and the first flour turned out of, the mill, was the property of and belonged to Jack, the chief of the Assiniboines, whose reserve is south of here. The wheat presented by him was excellent, and is part of what was grown on his reserve during the past season. This speaks well for our Indians, and shows plainly what they can do if they have competent instructors."

1885 – 20 June – *Otago Witness*, New Zealand - also refers to Major Bell touring in England

<http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/cgi-bin/paperspast?a=d&d=OW18850620.1.7&e=-----10--61----2%22Bell+farm%22--> Major Bell "lecturing in Britain"

1885 – June 25 – July 9 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

Marg: (July 9) when Big Bear is captured, continues Rebellion news.

1885 – June 30 – as reported in the July 9 – *Brandon Mail*, p. 7 – Sir Henry Tyler visits Bell Farm

"**SIR HENRY TYLER – What He has to say about the Rockies.** Sir Henry Tyler and party, accompanied by superintendent Egan, arrived back from the Rocky Mountains yesterday morning about 5 o'clock. To a reporter he gave the benefit of some observations he made during the trip. The Bell farm was visited and the party escorted over it by Major Bell. Sir Henry was very much pleased with all the arrangements, and formed a high opinion of the mode of farming adopted on the farm. He also saw the steam roller mill at work. The crops, he said, looked very well, as they also did on the experimental farm which were visited. . . . ."



## 1885 – June - Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
170	June 4, 1885	R. V. Martinsen	New York	United States – Rudolph V. Martinsen was an American financier and a Director of the Canadian Pacific Railway.
171	10 June 1885	Cy Henty	London, England	
172	June 11, 1885	Count d’Esterhazy	New York City	United States – Hungarian nobleman travelling in North America; established settlement at Esterhazy
173		G. Dory de Tobbahaza	New York	United States – Hungarian nobleman travelling in North America
174		Arthur. F. Eden	Winnipeg	Manitoba – investor in the Bell Farm in 1886 Ref: Ed Morgan History, p. 55
175	June 13, 1885	Robert J. Boyd, L.R.C. Pte	London, England	
176		Claude Hamilton	Ayr, Scotland	
177	June 30, 1885	H.H. Tyler	Pymmes Park, Edmonton, England	Sir Henry Tyler
178		Edmond ....sis	Toronto, Canada	Ontario
179		...???...enton	London, England	
180		C.W. Tyler	London	England
181		Gay.... R. Hughes	Maldon, England	

1885 – July 3 – *The Northwestern Miller* – Grain Elevator article

“Jas. Pye, of the Pray Mfg. Co., returned last week from Indian Head, N.W.Ty., where he started up the new 125 bbl mill which his company built for the Qu’Appelle Farming Co.”

1885 – July 9 – *Brandon Mail*, p. 7 – Sir Henry Tyler visits Bell Farm flour mill, and Rockies

**“SIR HENRY TYLER - What he has to say about the Rockies** - Sir Henry Tyler and party, accompanied by Superintendent Egan, arrived back from the Rocky Mountains yesterday morning about 5 o'clock. To a reporter he gave the benefit of some observations he made during the trip. The Bell farm was visited and the party escorted over it by Major Bell. Sir Henry was very much pleased with all the arrangements, and formed a high opinion of the mode of farming adopted on the farm. He also saw the steam roller mill at work. The crops, he said, looked very well, as they also did on the experimental farms which were visited. Sir Henry was enthusiastic over the mountain scenery . . . .”

1885 – July 9 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

Indian Head and dated July 1, cricket match at Indian Head between Qu'Appelle District and the 91<sup>st</sup> Battalion. “For the military, Hodson, Bell and Laidlaw played well and for the Qu'Appelle District Resser, Tregent and Major Bell displayed very good form.”

1885 – July 29 – *Winnipeg Daily Times*, p. 665 – Major Bell's comment on Rebellion impact on the Farm

**“MAJOR BELL** says the operation on the **Bell farm** have not been so extensive this year as in the past in consequence of the rebellion, many of the teams belonging to the farm having been engaged in the transport service. An immense crop, however, will be put in next spring.” ←

1885 – July – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
182	July 24, 1885	J. Wrigley	Winnipeg	Manitoba
183		Capt. Samuel Lawrence Bedson	Stony Mountain	Manitoba Captain S. Lawrence Bedson selected the site of the Stoney Mountain prison and ran the institution. He was also a wildlife enthusiast and kept a large herd of buffalo. Part of this herd he later sold to Major Bell who planned on breeding them with cows.  Bedson also took part in the North West Rebellion

1885 – August 13 – Brandon Sun – Letter to the Editor on Major Bell's role in the Rebellion

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## " A BIG STEAL."

— — — — —

### How Tory Jobbers Profited by the Rebellion.

— — — — —

QU'APPELLE, July 17. — "These teamsters got pretty well paid for hauling supplies," I remarked to a leading official connected with the administration of justice in the Territories a few days ago.

"Well paid, I should say they did," was the answer. "Why not only had they to get four or five prices for hauling the load, but in a great many cases they got the load too." Why," continued the official, that Bell farm has been made profitable at last, but I guess if everything were known there would be very few knighthoods granted in connection with this business. Every jobber in the Northwest who had any influence with the Government has made a fortune, and it will not be surprising if they try and provoke another rebellion if they can do as well out of it. Why, there are tons of provisions, oats, hay, clothing, and other supplies purchased for the troops rotting along the transport routes. Between Touchwood and Clark's crossing there are thousands of bushels of oats growing in bags by the side of the trail, and God knows how much the teamsters have hidden and cached for future use. Some of these parties have enough of everything to do them for years. I tell you it was

A BIG STEAL ALL ROUND.

#### A BIG STEAL ALL ROUND.

Twice as much was bought as was necessary, because the Bell Farm Company and all the other middlemen were anxious make all the profit they could out of the purchase and hauling of the stuff."

"But was there no check on them?"

"How could there be any check when the man who bought for the Government, and the man from whom the supplies were got was the same person. Why, every man connected with the Bell Farm establishment was engaged as teamster, clerk, superintendent or supply officer, and all the teams belonging to the company were engaged at \$10 per day, and the men who drove them were also paid as 'superintendents' to look after themselves. I guess Dewdney has a large interest in that concern," my informant added in response to an enquiry as to how the Bell Farm had fared so well.

#### FURTHER INVESTIGATION.

Hearing such statements from an appointee of the present Ottawa government, and one who has always been regarded as a staunch and influential Conservative, I thought the matter should be further investigated, and the revelations were appalling. At first it was a difficult matter to get information. Those who were willing to speak could give very little but general suppositions and conjectures, while those who, one could judge from their conversation, knew the facts, were reticent, most of them being evidently mixed up in some way with the greater or lesser "rings" which the supply and transport called into existence. From volunteers from the front a good many points could be obtained, but the poor fellows had little time to talk, and could only denounce in a general way the inefficiency of the supply service and the scanty equipments doled out to them. There is no longer any doubt that General Middleton's delay in pushing forward toward's Batocho after the battle of Fish Creek was owing to the want of supplies, though the services had

been over a month organized. The first idea that seemed to strike the Northwest Tories when they heard of the insurrection was the grand evance it would offer for spoil. "Supplies will have to be bought at any price," they argued, "and the transportation will prove a rich harvest for jobbers and middlemen." And so it turned out. Every supply officer, and every commander of a battalion was surrounded by these harpies, each crying,

GIVE US A SHOW, COLONEL,

and when asked to explain their meaning, they would point out that supplies of all kinds would be wanted, and that they might as well get the job as anybody else. One of the most fruitful causes of jobbery and loss to the Government was the appointment of broken down Tory merchants and political hangers-on as supply officers in preference to militia officers who understood the business, and there were plenty to do the work. But the one idea of the department at Ottawa seemed to be to put money into the hands of the friends of the Ministry. All the instructions issued from the Militia department lead to that conviction. At the outset Mr. Sam Bedson, the keeper of the Manitoba Penitentiary, was appointed chief supply officer, many militia officers being passed over. Why select Mr. Bedson? He had other duties to look after, which he neglected. The appointment of Mr. Bedson is

UTTERLY INDEFENSIBLE.

It was "greasing the fat pig," and his reputation as the manager of the Penitentiary was certainly not such as to point him out as the only man in the Northwest competent to fulfil the duties. However, he went off, leaving the Penitentiary to take care of itself, and the result was that several convicts escaped. Whether this news has reached you in the east or not, it is strictly true.

Men who were at the Katoche fight assert that some of these well paid Government employees did not show a very good example to the men on that occasion. It is publicly asserted here that one of the officers of the transport service took possession of Gabriel Dumont's billiard table the most valuable article about the place, and ordered it to be sent back to his place in Manitoba no doubt at Government expense. It is also asserted, and there is circumstantial evidence to support the statement, that the same official ordered a number of the ponies captured from the rebels at Lish Creek to be sent down to his farm at Stoney Mountain, and his orders were carried out. The reports of the alleged shooting by the volunteers after Katoche appear to be greatly exaggerated. The men behaved remarkably well, considering the examples set them by Mr. Caron's supply officers.

"Now I have got what I wanted and will make things hum," Major Bell is reported to have said when he received his commission to purchase supplies for the Government. And they hummed. Hay bought from the farmers at \$10 and \$12 a ton was sold to the Government as "the product of the Bell Farm," at \$20 and \$25 per ton. Messrs. Bedson and Bell seemed to have understood each other thoroughly, and the latter seems to have been given every possible latitude. He had carte blanche and did pretty much as he pleased. The first move was to put the whole staff of the Bell farm on Government rations and pay. Teams and teamsters from the Bell Farm were en-

aged by Mr. Bell himself. These teams were the only teams paid for at such extortionate rates. Others received \$5, \$6 and \$7. Teams were

SENT OUT HALF LOADED.

The more teams required the better for the company. Clerks, superintendents, blacksmiths, carpenters, laborers, etc., connected with the Bell Farm were all placed on the pay list. Everything that could be furnished by the establishment, at first or second-hand, was bought for the Government and paid for at exorbitant rates. A well-known Torry jobber, and the nephew of a newly-appointed senator, is reported to have gone around Winnipeg offering to get the tenders of such and such parties accepted, provided he was allowed to have a show. A little scandal, a dispute between some of the jobbers, arose out of these tenders which tends to throw light on the whole system that was deliberately organized to plunder the Canadian public. As the details of the dispute are lengthy, I must reserve them for my next letter. W. G. A.

Part 5 (27 kb)

1885 – August – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
184	August ..., 1885	Walter Blackburn	Balgonie	Saskatchewan
185		R. Gordon	Winnipeg	Manitoba
186		Charles Edward Butler	Balgonie	Saskatchewan
187		Henry Tanner	London, England	Same as # 69 & 247 – Tanner was part of Gov. Gen. Lansdowne entourage from Winnipeg west in Sept 1885, but left at Minnedosa, before they reached the Bell Farm.

1885 – August / Sept - Prof. Tanner visited the Bell Farm and reported on progress

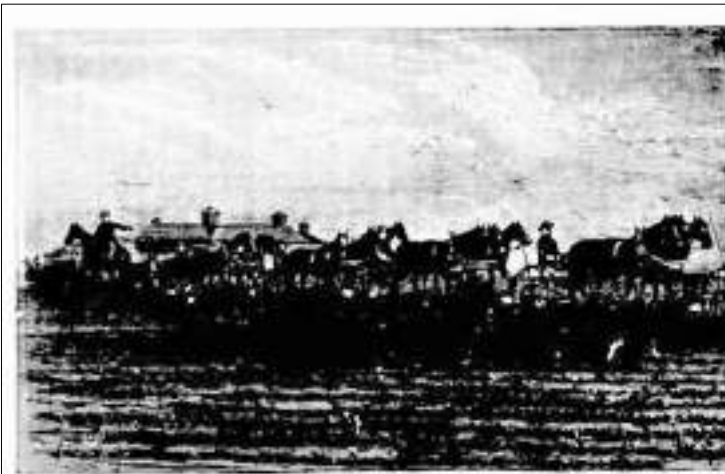
On reaching Winnipeg on the evening of September 18th last, somewhat wearied with my lengthened prairie journey, I found an invitation awaiting me to join the members of the Provincial Government, in accompanying the Governor-General (His Excellency the Marquis of Lansdowne) on his trip along the Manitoba and North-Western Railway. That invitation I accepted with much pleasure, and early the next morning we left Winnipeg in a special train. For a distance of nearly 60 miles we really retraced the course I had travelled the preceding day, and I again passed through those broad plains of rich pasture lands which extend along the side of the Canadian Pacific Railway, but we left this line of railway at Portage la Prairie. At this point His Excellency

p. 29

#### THE BELL FARM COLONISATION SYSTEM.

The Bell Farm, which is situated in the Qu'appelle district, has attracted much attention by reason of the large extent of land which it contains—about 64,000 acres. It has also received much consideration because of the magnitude and excellence of its tillage operations. It is, however, desirable to state that these points of

p. 38



ILLUSTRATE THE PRIZE OF THE BELL FARM.

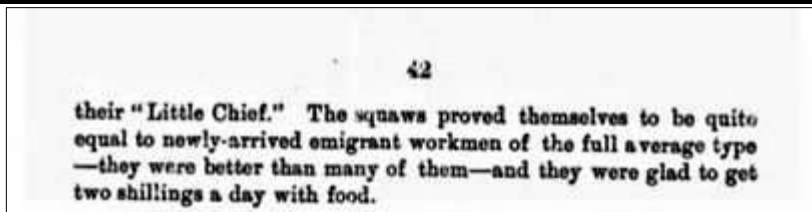
p. 39

detail are simply incidental to the carrying out of a definite colonisation scheme. In my Report issued in 1883 this system was explained somewhat in detail, and I quote from it the following remarks—" I have now to report upon a colonisation scheme in which the work is being carried out by a company having the command of a large capital. The general scheme is to bring the land into cultivation, dividing it into 300 farms, each having a comfortable residence, with stabling and shedding enough for its stock. When this has been accomplished, these farms, with the stock and implements upon each, will be fairly valued, and the men who helped to carry out the improvements will each have the offer of his own farm at a valuation price, he paying for the same by a series of annual instalments. In the meantime each man receives wages, and he has his house and one acre of garden ground rent free." This colonisation scheme has much to commend it to our consideration, but modifications might be very advantageously introduced whereby gentlemen having some little capital to invest, may also be comfortably settled upon small farms. They might thus establish an agreeable association with other families near, of similar type and character, whilst the produce from their lands—aided by the game and fish of the district around—would practically maintain their households in comfort.

The discussions which have arisen as regards the relative advantages of large and small farms are somewhat beside the mark, except so far as they render the preparation of the land for colonisation purposes more or less economical. Major Bell is steadily advancing the arrangement for the development of the colonisation scheme, and the systematic operations upon the cultivated portions will greatly favour its success. The rate of wages has again fallen this last season, not only upon this farm, but generally throughout Canada, and its important influence upon the introduction of capital, can only be beneficial. If a capitalist has to pay an unreasonable rate of wages, it naturally checks his success in business. For a time very high wages were paid, and often for an inferior class of workmen, but happily this is now altered. Liberal wages can still be secured by men who are capable of doing good work. Their prosperity in life is far more satisfactorily advanced by moderate wages, with some land of their own on which a cow, pigs, and poultry can be kept, rather than by excessive wages, which check the outlay of capital. The employment of Indians in the harvesting of corn is a new and important feature on this farm. A considerable number were so employed this last harvest, and these came under the special guidance of Mr. Adiel W. Sherwood, whom they styled



CUTTING WHEAT ON THE BELL FARM.



1885 – Sept 3 - Qu'Appelle Vidette (Marg's transcript)

*(Marg: work progressing on new English Church in Fort Qu'Appelle – our book). And, under Indian Head, nominations of candidates for the Qu'Appelle District for Northwest council, followed by a large meeting held at the Bell Farm Hotel.*

1885 – September – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
188	Sept. 21, 1885	Lansdowne	Ottawa	Ontario – Governor General of Canada: 1883-88
189		Edward Hope	London, England	
190		Alan Charteris	London, England	
191		H.J. Anson	Ottawa	Ontario Captain Henry James Anson (1858-1904) was the Aide-de-Camp to the Marquis of Lansdowne and the nephew of Bishop Anson. He visited the Bell Farm with the Governor General on September 21, 1885.
192		W. Burton Deane	Regina	Saskatchewan – NWMP superintendent
193	Sept. 22, 1885	Marie de Molinari	Paris	France
194		G. de Molinari	Paris	France
195		Georges Demanche	Paris	France
196		Georges <i>Tiret-Bognet</i>	Paris	France
197		T. Campbell Train	Edinburgh	Scotland
198		W.S. Jones	Qu'Appelle Station	Saskatchewan



## 1885 – Supreme Court of the NWT – Law Suits

SAB File	Microfiche Box Reference	District Court / Supreme Court of NWT	Conflicting Parties	Year(s)	Comments
626	D 08	DC 2/85	S.M. Jarvis Vs. M. Kennedy	1883- 1885	Salter Jarvis one of the QVFC directors
677	L 08	DC 61/85	A.J. Osment Vs. D. Beadle	1885	
730	F 09	DC 119/85	A.J. Osment Vs. L. Clark	1885	
754	J 09	DC 143/85	A.J. Osment Vs. G. Thompson	1885	
755	J 09	DC 144/85	A.J. Osment Vs. G. Adams & QVFC	1885	
782	O 09	DC 177/85	T.C. Gorrell Vs. W. Bell & F. Goodwin	1883- 1886	Not sure if W. Bell is W.R. Bell or someone else
827	G 10	DC 223/85	A. Pugsley Vs. A.J. Osment	1885- 1886	
845	J 10	DC 244/85	J.B. Milliken Vs. W.R. Bell	1885	

1885 – Oct. 8 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

Indian Head. Marg: Prize list for Indian Head Ag Exhibition

First prize for best roadster stallion to be offered by Major Bell.

## 1885 – Oct. 11 – 13 – extracts from Sir John Lister-Kaye Diary (transcripts by Hugh Henry)

*Note from Hugh Henry: Not clear whether references below are Major Bell, or not. Note from Frank Korvemaker: These Lister-Kaye meetings are in Winnipeg; I'm certain that the "Bell" references are to Major Bell, and that the "Club" is the Manitoba Club.*

Sunday, October 11

At 2:15 a.m. Walter meets me. I am delighted with the house and barn, roost at 4, breakfast at 8:00. Out with Walter walk over ploughing and backsetting, both are admirable. I am delighted, a splendid seed bed. Tell W. B. to start in at \$70 per month now. Pelly & Redpath to dinner. Horses looking well. Leave \$2,000 with Walter. Northwood a capitalist of Chatham, Ontario is on train coming to Winnipeg he tells me of his flour mill at Carberry capacity 400 barrels per day profit \$200 per day, 75 horsepower engine with two boilers will drive mills, also the elevator. Cost of mill & engines & machinery \$2,800. Bell measured 1,000 acres & got 35,000 bushels thrashed, a grand average this last year. Leave Balgonie -

Monday, October 12

- 12.5. a.m., I get up at 11 next morning in time for dinner at Brandon at Grand View Hotel, very good. Here it is 12:00 going on central time. I make acquaintance of Mr. Sykes owner of 14,000 acres above Qu'Appelle. He has farms in Dakota & Iowa under tenant system, his tenants doing well. Meet Bell at Queen's Hotel, puts me up for the Club.

Tuesday, October 13

See McTavish settles I can pay interest in advance on the 8 sections \$899.77. See Brydges H.B. Co. agent, he says ditto so I decide to pay interest on the  $\frac{3}{4}$  section 26, T17, R17 amounting to \$201. Luncheon with Bell at Club, meet McTavish & McDonald brother of Sir J. After luncheon McTavish drives me out to Silver Heights, his and Donald Smith's model farm. He has fine Highland & Hereford cattle, farm well drained. Wonderful show of potatoes, carrots & parsnips.

1885 – Oct. 15 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

Marg: Indian Head. Qu'Appelle Valley Flour Mill sold. – Frank: This does not appear to be the Bell Farm Flour Mill, but instead is a mill in Qu'Appelle or Fort Qu'Appelle, probably the latter.

1885 – Oct 24 – *Regina Leader* – data on Grist Mill construction, including designer/ miller: W.D Cook, J. Harvey, second miller, and R.S. Watson, salesman; J. Holden is engineer. Builder\_\_\_\_; brick engine house and brick boiler house ("W. Delook" is probably W.D. Cook, head miller for the Bell Grist Mill)

**Bell Farm Roller Mill.**  
Last January, the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Co., of Indian Head, N. W. T., decided to build a full system flour Mill that would manufacture 125 to 150 bls. of flour per day. They engaged the services of W. Delook to correspond with the leading manufacturers of mill machinery in the U. S. and Canada and they decided to give the contract to the Pray Mfg. Co., Minneapolis Minn. W. Delook furnished the plans for the mill and started it up and it has been making full time ever since it was started, June 2nd, and turns out a brand of flour second to none in America.  
The mill building is frame 36x48 feet, four stories high. The first floor contains the main shaft, 20 elevator hoists, 1 feed stone, 1 large Fairbank's hopper scales, 1 Morgan wheat sower, 1 large Miller scales and the driving pullys for the rollers. The second story contains

12 pairs of 2x23 Livingston's belted roller mills, two Barnard & Tees flour packers, 1 set of Packer's flour scales, 1 Kurth's patent cockle separator, 1 Risdon separator, 3000 bran and shorts bin and head millers office.  
Third floor contains 1 flour reel, bolt chest, 1 centrifugal reel, 3 G. J. Smith purifiers, 4 peerless dust collectors, 2 large flour sinks, and 2 large wheat sinks.  
Fourth floor contains 1 5 reel scalping chest, 1 two reel bolt chest, 2 Pye centrifugal reels, 1 Richmond receiving separator, 3 Smith purifiers and 3 dust collectors.  
Brick engine house 15x32, brick boiler house 16x32. 70 horse power boiler and engine and steam pump, J. Holden engineer.  
Store house 30x35 feet two stories high. Elevator of 50,000 bushels capacity with engine and boiler. Office 16x24. W. D. Cook head miller, J. Harvey second miller and R. S. Watson salesman.

275 kb & 251 kb

Regina Leader	? date unknown		Local News: Bell Farm" – 2 <sup>nd</sup> column
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1885 – Oct. 29 – *Regina Leader* – p. 3 – Bell Mill is frame, 4 stories high, with brick engine house – get better copy



1885 – 31 October – *NWT Gazette* - E.H. Eberts appointed Notary Public

1885 – October – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
199	Oct. 17, 1885	<i>V. Andheimer</i>	Toronto	Ontario

200	Oct. 25, 1885	<i>E. Bougnier</i>	<i>Peruwelz</i> , Belgium	
201	“	Gabriel <i>Bougnier</i>	<i>Peruwelz</i> , Belgium	
202	“	L. Bougnier	<i>Peruwelz</i> , Belgium	
203	“	Thomas White	Ottawa	Ontario – <i>Conservative Member of Parliament in 1885; Minister of the Interior Aug. 8, 1886 Qu’Appelle Progress reports. Hon Thomas White (Minister of the Interior) touring. Includes Edgeley Farm.</i>
204		<i>Lynwode Perevia</i>	Ottawa	
205		<i>C. ....</i>	Qu’Appelle Station	
206		A.A. Farley, Capt. “B” Battery	Quebec	Quebec
207		Jas. S. Truberry, Surg, “B” Battery	No Information	

1885 – Nov. 5 - *Qu’Appelle Vidette* (Marg’s transcript)

Indian Head. “The Hon Thomas White paid us a visit last Tuesday (20<sup>th</sup>). He arrived here by special train at 6 pm and was the guest of Major Bell.”

“... The Bell Farm Squatters then presented a memorial praying that their claims should be looked into at an early date and settlement made.” White promised to look into the matter, and also try to reduce the cost of pre-emptions.

“Mr. Insinger, of the Bell Farm, returned from a visit to Winnipeg on Friday. We don’t know what kind of a time he had, but from the happy smile on his face when he arrived we should judge ‘excellent.’” *(Marg: Insinger was from Holland; later moved to Yorkton.)*

1885 – Nov 9 - *Qu’Appelle Vidette* - **– check for details** – Frank’s Note: No newspaper printed on this date

1885 – Nov. 12 - *Qu’Appelle Vidette*, p. 2 (Marg’s transcript)

Indian Head. “Major Bell left for the east on Thursday morning’s train.”

“Captain McKay, of the Indian Head Home Guards, has issued an order that all arms and accoutrements be turned over to Lieut. Fishleigh. This looks like we are not going to have another rebellion. . . .”

**Marg:** Complaint about no grain buyers at Indian Head. Bell Farm (and Wright farm) mentioned.

1885 – Nov. 19 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript) Riel hanged on Nov. 16.

**Indian Head:** "Messrs Osment, Irwin, White and Fred Fishleigh attended court at Regina last Friday and Saturday. Among the curiosities brought back by them was a shaving from Riel's coffin."

"Jno. Anderson, late of the Bell Farm, and his nephew, 'wee Jamie,' left for old Scotia by Tuesday morning's train."

1885 – Nov. 27 - *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript), p. 6

**Indian Head.** "The Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Co. are now paying cash for wheat or full weight in flour. Their mill is now running day, and night, another set of men having been placed on. They have a special arrangement with the C.P.R. for milling grain in transit and for small lots shipped from stations between and including Moose Jaw and Broadview."

1885 – Dec. 3 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

**Indian Head.** "The Bell farm shipped twelve tons of dressed hogs to Winnipeg on Saturday and more to follow."

1885 – Dec. 4 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript), p. 6

**Wolseley.** Mr. James Conmee, M.P.P. of the Ontario legislature, has a farm north of Wolseley. Several sections. This year, 1,100 acres in wheat, 900 acres in oats, 100 in barley. 51 horses. 30 men at harvest. (Marg: I include this item to show that other large farms are in the area. Sir John Lister-Kaye's farm of 600-700 acres is near Balgonie. In November he left to spend the winter on his California estate. Then there's Edgeley Farm (of Vernon Church fame.) Owned by the Sykes brothers of England. )

1885 – Dec. 10 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

"The working staff in the farming department of the Bell farm has been reduced, back salaries have all been paid and everybody is happy."

"Mr. Allan, of Winnipeg, is assisting Mr. Ebert of the grain buying department of the Bell farm."

"Bell farm buying wheat."

1885 – Dec 12 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* - **– check for details** – Frank's Note: No newspaper printed on this date.

1885 – Dec. 17 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

**Indian Head.** "The Bell Farm Flour Mill had to shut down on Saturday on account of flues burning off. They expect to begin work again on Monday. This will not interfere with grists being exchanged."

"W.L. Boyle, president of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farm Company was the guest of Major Bell on Saturday and Sunday returning to Winnipeg on Sunday evening."

1885 – Dec. 18 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript), p. 6

Indian Head. "One thing badly needed here is a school. No interest at all seems to be manifested in the education of the young. As far as scholastic advantages are concerned, our boys and girls are little better than the Indian paposes (sic) which swarm throughout our town. Some say it is because of the opposition from the bachelor part of our community, but a more probable cause is the paralyzing effect of the great anti-progress monopoly, the Bell Farm."

1885 – Dec. 24 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

Indian Head. Mistake last week. "It was the elevator engine, not the mill, that gave out"

"Mr. K. Freeman of Winnipeg is here looking after his interest in the Osment and Freeman partnership, which expired Dec. 10."

"In last week's issue of the Qu'Appelle Progress their Indian Head correspondent ascribed the absence of school, first to the opposition of the bachelors and then to the opposition of the Bell Farm. These two assertions are as foolish as they are untrue, and could only emanate from the Webster brain of an anti-Bell Farmer."

1885 – Dec. 31 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

"6,200 acres are ready for seed on the Bell farm."

# 1886

1886 – Rebellion Losses Claims and Report – Canadian Sessional Papers – [check for details](#) for 1886 later years

1886 – Major and Mrs. Bell registered with the Indian Head Presbyterian Church

"Hi Frank. As luck would have it, we did find a William Robert Bell and a Mrs. W.R. Bell in the Presbyterian Communion Rolls for late-1800s Indian Head (reference numbers A.381.XV.A.6147 and A.381.XV.A.6148). There

is not all that much information recorded in the rolls but it does seem to confirm their participation. There are a couple of smaller notations that may be helpful, however.

From **XV.A.6147**:

- The entry for William Bell (no.15) has a note “without cert”, which suggests he did not have a written document from a previous church (perhaps they took his word for it?).
- There is no date or method of admission but based on the order of entries here, Bell likely joined between 1886 and 1888 (assuming the list was filled out chronologically).
- Mrs. Bell shows up a couple pages later (entry no.33), and she is noted as having attended communion Dec. 1891, June 1894 and Oct. 1894. Details are also limited here. “

(Source: 7 July 2014 e-mail from Madeleine McLuhan-Myers, Archivist, Saskatchewan Conference - United Church of Canada)

**Communion Roll of Indian Head N.S.**  
Jas. Bain & Son, Stationers, Toronto.

No.	NAME OF COMMUNICANT.	RESIDENCE.	PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION.	HOW AND WHEN ADMITTED.		
				BY PROFESSION	BY CERTIFICATE	FROM WHERE CERTIFIED.
1	James Harvey		Farmer			Union Ch. Squamish
2	Mary Harvey					do
3	John Brown		Blacksmith			Bainboro

12	Mrs. Leatt					
13	Mr. Joseph Glenn	Indian Head				Sept. 86.
14	Mrs. Joseph Glenn					Sept 86.
15	W.R. Bell (without cert)					
16	Mr. Crawford (Ch. of England)					
17	Alexander Brown					By certificate
18	William R. Boyd					Sept 88
19	Mr. W. R. Boyd					
20	Warrant B. L. Williamson					April 88

W.R. Bell: entry # 15 – listed as “without certificate” (Source: Indian Head Presbyterian Church Communion Register: 1886-1902, United Church Archives: A.381.XV.A.6147) [150 & 179 kb](#)

Note: While there are various references in this and later registers to Mrs. Bell, including her removal from the Communion Roll Register, there is only this one to “W.R. Bell” – perhaps this is really for Mrs. W.R. Bell, and the “Mrs” was inadvertently omitted.

1886 - agreement between Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company and R.B. Angus et al [– check for details](#)

(Source: Glenbow Archives: Series 4: M-6531-19: Legal Documents: 1887-1890)

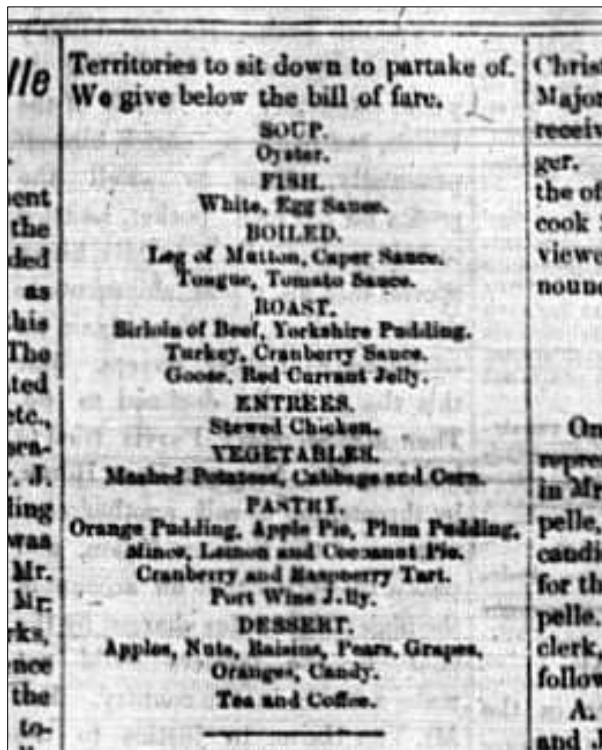
1886 – no specific date – Major and Mrs. Bell attend the Presbyterian Church:

“Major and Mrs. Bell regularly attended Presbyterian Church coming to church in a buck board, and Mrs. Bell would always get her hat from a box before going into church.” - source: Gordon Glenn, as told to him by his mother, Christina [Gordon] Glenn, who came to Indian Head in 1886 after her marriage to Joseph Glenn [Indian Head history, p. 400-401]

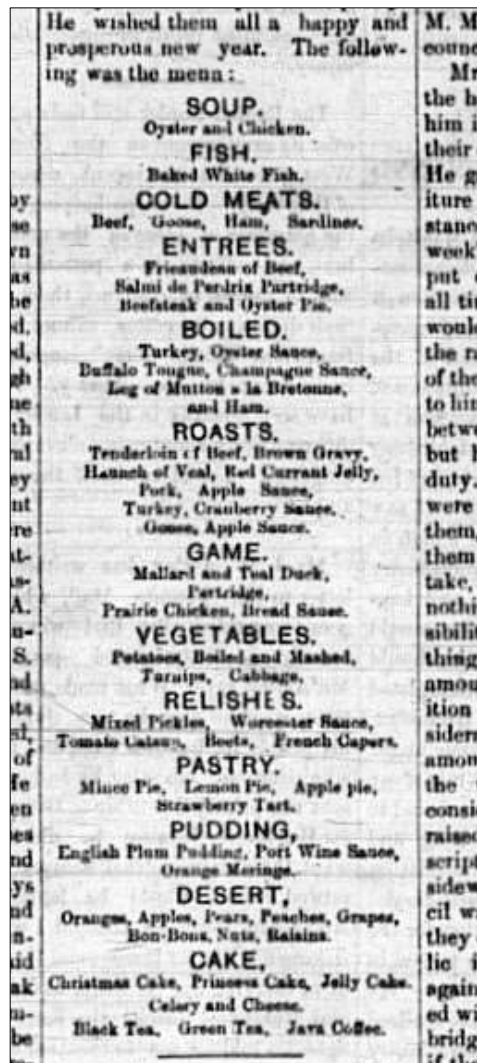
1886 – 1 January – NWT Gazette – Major Bell and James Harvey appointed Justices of the Peace

1886 – Jan. 1 – Qu’Appelle Progress (Marg’s transcript), p.1

Marg: menu of New Year’s dinner at Leland Hotel and Queen’s Hotel, Qu’Appelle, which may give some indication of the meals served to special guests at the Bell Farm.



Leland Hotel menu



Queen’s Hotel menu



1886 – Jan. 14 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

Indian Head. "Osment and Freeman are no more. It is now A.J. Osment & Everything Good and Cheap. Mr. Freeman has returned to Winnipeg."

"Why don't the Bell Farm put a whistle on the mill or elevator, so that there would be something to break the monotony of Indian Head existence."

"Quite a number of Bell farm horses were seized for nonpayment of taxes. Mr. Railton, the collector, seized the horses which were in use at the time taking them from the water tanks and from hauling straw, and, at least, for the day, embarrassing the work. The horses are now in livery stable under expense."

1886 – Jan. 15 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript), p. 6

Qu'Appelle: "A number of the Bell Farm teams passed through here on Tuesday with flour for the Indian reserves northwest of here."

1886 – Jan. 28 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

Indian Head. "'Lochinvar' in the *Progress* jumps with both feet on the burley secretary of the Bell farm, and believes the Bell farm will have to borrow money to pay their taxes. Collector Railton will probably bring some news to the council after March the 4<sup>th</sup>, and mayhap the council will foot Peter Garratt's livery bill, and perhaps more. Those who laugh last laugh best."

1886 – Jan. 30 – *Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 1 – Rebellion Claims by Bell Farm paid

"The Bell farm claims for military transport last spring have been paid. The amount was about \$340,000. This does not include Major Bell's private claim which is also a large amount." – check dollar amount – may have an extra "0"

1886 – Jan. 30 – *Calgary Weekly Herald*, p. 1 - Rebellion Claims by Bell Farm paid

"The total amount of the claim of the Bell farming company against the Government for transport services during the recent rebellion was about \$34,000 (sic) this does not however include claims of Major Bell individually nor claims of Bell and Lewis and other firms in which that gentleman was interested. All claims of the Bell company except \$6,000 have been paid."

1886 – Feb. 3 – *Montreal Gazette*: (Toronto news) – death of T.C. Elwood, an original Bell Farm investor, and brother of Mrs. Katherine Bell

"The Board of Trade adjourned today out of respect to the memory of T.C. Elwood, formerly superintendent of the Dominion Telegraph Co., who died this morning near Prescott."

1886 – Feb. 4 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

Indian Head. "The total amount of the claim of the Bell Farming Company against the Government for transport services during the recent rebellion was about \$34,000. This does not, however, include the claims of Major Bell, individually, nor the claims of Bell and Lewis and other firms in which that gentleman was interested. All the claims of the Bell Company, excepting \$6,000, have been paid."

1886 – Feb. 11 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

"WR Allan and Major and Mrs. Bell arrived per Wednesday's train."

"Major Bell brought part of the \$38,000 with him and will on Saturday pay all hands. This will end an awful lot of growling and spoil the favourite topic of some of our wise men that the Bell Farm 'bubble' would soon burst. 'Joe Beef,' 'Viator' and 'Lochinvar' can try their hands at something besides Bell Farm tirades." *(Marg: Viator is the Abernathy correspondent. I think Joe Beef is too.)*

"Put a whistle on the mill, Major."

1886 – Feb. 26 – Bell Farm submits Rebellion Losses Claim to Hon. Thomas White, Minister of the Interior

This four page document outlines the expenses incurred by the Bell Farm during the North West Rebellion of 1885, for which the Company is seeking compensation in the amount of \$ 57,429.01.

<b>The Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company, Limited.</b>	
<b>BELL FARM OFFICE.</b>	
<b>STATEMENT OF CLAIM</b> of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Co., Limited, for damages and loss caused by the withdrawal of their force from the Bell Farm on the 29th of March, 1885; by the General of the Forces. The Company being thereby prevented from carrying on their active operations as Farmers.	
Amount actually expended in preparing 8,200 acres of land on the Bell Farm in 1884 for cropping in the Spring of 1885	\$10,727 94
Less the proportion of this amount on 1,000 acres cropped in 1885	5,377 00
<b>Net loss in preparation</b>	<b>\$5,350 94</b>
Interest on this sum for one year	1,188 07
Value of Crop of 7,300 acres at an average of 18 bushels	131,400 00
bushels at 60 cents	78,840 00
Debit cost of seed per acre	51 30
" " sowing do.	0 25
" " harrowing do.	0 30
" " reaping do.	1 30
" " stacking do.	0 30
" " Threshing and Delivering do.	0 75
" " wear and tear do.	0 30
" " 7,300 acres of	40,130 00
<b>Net loss through non-use of land</b>	<b>35,690 00</b>
<b>Amount of Claim</b>	<b>\$57,429 01</b>
Winnipeg, February 26th, 1886.	

1886 – Feb. 18 – Qu’Appelle Vidette (Marg’s transcript)

Indian Head. “Put a whistle on the mill, Major.”

“All the Bell farm, mill and elevator employees were paid in full on Saturday.”

1886 – Feb. 19 – *Qu’Appelle Progress*, p. 1

(Left image below) Letter to Editor by “Junius” , written on Feb. 12, 1886 and published on Feb. 19 – “Are We to be Crushed by Monopoly ?” - complaining about the Bell Farm monopoly;

(Right image below) Plus a second letter , written March 3, 1886 and published later, on March 12, 1886, p. 2.



1886 – Feb. 26 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript), p. 6

Marg: Letter to the Editor re Bell Farm, photocopied.

"On Saturday last a matched game of curling was played at the Qu'Appelle rink between the curlers of Indian Head and this place, resulting in favor of our boys by a score of 20 to 7. The following were the players: H.B. Eberts, skip; Major Bell, R. Crawford and \_\_\_ Allan, Indian Head . . . . A return game will be played shortly."

1886 – Feb. 26 – Application to establish The Bell Farming Company (Ltd)

Directors include: Bell, Boyle, MacArthur, Allen, Howard, Rokeby, and Eberts, headquarters in Winnipeg. (Source: Published in the Canada Gazette for 13 March 1886, p. 1319)

[http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/canada-gazette/093/001060-119.01-e.php?image\\_id\\_nbr=106042&document\\_id\\_nbr=4450&f=p&PHPSESSID=7b2cobbnnfu1n47op3u4hu3i03](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/canada-gazette/093/001060-119.01-e.php?image_id_nbr=106042&document_id_nbr=4450&f=p&PHPSESSID=7b2cobbnnfu1n47op3u4hu3i03))

1886 – March 8 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript), p. 2, col 3.

Marg: Within a long political tirade is the following:

"In the election for the Northwest Council in 1883, when his opponent was Major Bell, of Indian Head, Mr. Jackson's whole campaign stock-in trade was composed of bitter attacks" on Lt. Gov Dewdney.

1886 – March 11 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

Indian Head. "Major Bell has gone to St. Paul."

"Lieut Governor Dewdney and Lady were guests of Mrs. Major Bell on Monday."

"Put the whistle on the mill Major."

1886 – March 12 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript), p. 4

Marg: a second Letter to the Editor, from "Junius", about Bell Farm monopoly (long letter – 2½ columns) – see above = Feb. 19, 1886 for original letter and reply letter image

"His Honor, Lieut. Governor Dewdney paid a visit to the Bell farm last Monday."

"Mr. A.J. Osment is importing a photograph outfit from England for Mr. J. Molony of Qu'Appelle."

"Mr. A.J. Osment was invited to inspect the Katepwa bridge. He reported that it was unsafe and that a new bridge would be required."

1886 – March 19 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript), p. 2 – brickmaking at Qu'Appelle

Marg: Editorial request for bricks needed for building. States there is plenty of good clay available (second call for same.)

1886 – March 25 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

Indian Head. "Major Bell, HJ Ebert, and Officers of the Municipality were at Regina on Wednesday last regarding the disputed taxes."

"The Bell farm have sold their rights to the Indian Head townsite to the Canadian Northwest Land Co. It is to be hoped that the lots will be placed at a figure, now, which will give everybody a chance to invest without bursting their bank account."

"Where is the whistle for the mill Major."

"Prof. Tanner has been here for a week, the guest of Major Bell. It is generally understood his visit is relative to an agricultural college; but whether there will be more than smoke I will not venture to say."

Under "Local Happenings" (*Fort Qu'Appelle*) "we learn that Prof. Tanner is about to establish an agriculture college at Indian Head in the near future. The probabilities are that the college will be open with 16 students."

1886 – 27 March – *NWT Gazette* - H.J. Eberts appointed Advocate

1886 – April 1 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

Indian Head. "WR Allan returned from Winnipeg on Friday and brought with him a supply of dairy-maids, cooks, farm laborers and cottagers."

"It is spoken of by many as a settled fact that we are to have an agricultural college here. The news is almost too good to be true. Is Indian Head really going to wake up! Rumor also has a new hotel and town hall for the summer."

"Where is the whistle for the mill Major!"

"Bell Farm and others have begun seeding."

1886 – April 2 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript)

Indian Head: "Seeding was commenced on Tuesday on the Bell Farm. They have six thousand acres ready for crop and started out twenty-three seeders."

ALSO, the following:

“Professor Tanner, of London, Eng., who is now making his fourth visit to the North West, was the guest of Major Bell last Sunday. It is announced that the Ottawa Government has given him authority to establish an agricultural college. Possibly the long projected wish of the Major in this direction may soon be carried out. Let us hope so. No better centre could be found for such an enterprise than Indian Head, convenient to water, wood and boasting of the best soil in the Territory.”

1886 – April 8 – Qu’Appelle Vidette (Marg’s transcript)

Indian Head. “Major Bell has gone to Port Arthur.”

“Bring a whistle for the mill Major.”

1886 – April 9 – Qu’Appelle Progress (Marg’s transcript), p. 2

“Indian Head. The people of Indian Head and the North-West generally will be gratified to learn that arrangements have been made to open an Agricultural College at that place. Professor Tanner has just been in Ottawa consulting the Government in reference to the College. He has made arrangements with the Qu’Appelle Valley Farming Co. To use their new **stone** building, put up for an hotel in Indian Head, to which an addition is to be built so as to accommodate about fifty pupils. Professor Tanner has gone to England, and on his return will bring out an assistant. It is expected that the institution will be opened about July first.” (Note – May 18 – Regina Leader - the hotel is referred to as being a brick structure)

1886 – April 15 – Qu’Appelle Vidette (Marg’s transcript)

Indian Head. “Both the Bell farm and town dams on Spring Creek broke on Friday and prospects are poor for our boat club.”

1886 – April 22 – Qu’Appelle Vidette (Marg’s transcript)

Indian Head. “The Bell farm elevator and mill will in a few days close down for the summer.”

1886 – May 4 – Oct 15 – Colonial and Indian Exhibition, London England – includes Albany Settlement drawing by Prof. Tanner

1886 – Colonial and Indian Exhibition, London – Tanners Drawing and Bill Farm references

of the temperate and colder zones. Canada does this department of trade well and thoroughly. Let not Australia make it her specialty, but rather try to excel in the fruits and products of a warmer climate, and especially those which can be exported at such times that they shall arrive in England when fruit is out of season. Looking at this great trophy the mind dwells long on the agricultural resources of Canada. It is suggestive of the broad wheat-covered plains of Manitoba and the fertile fields and orchards of Ontario. But for the yearly four months of enforced idleness in hard frost the Canadian settler's lot would be an enviable one. Many efforts are made, however, to overcome the disadvantages. One company take pains to exhibit a large map showing the manner in which some large estates are being cut up in Canada after the model in which they have cut up and sold Major Bell's great wheat-farm of world renown. Major Bell was a noticeable individual when a paragraph travelled all over the world a few months ago relating how he had made fabulous profits out of his American farm, and some of our South Australian farmers regarded their lot as a hard one when they read the account. It was after all only an auctioneer's puff. They do these things well in America. At the side of the space devoted to the trophy is displayed the skill in which such exhibits as soaps, biscuits, tinned fish, and samples of wheat are got up. None of the Australian exhibitors do things in such a "taking style." It is as well to acknowledge our shortcomings and make wholesome comparisons. In considering the Canadian Court of this Exhibition alongside of those of the Australian Colonies, if I were asked in what respect they fall short I should not say in regard to the quality of the manufactures or produce, but rather in the seemingly simple matter of "dressing the windows."

214 kb

1886 – May 13 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

Indian Head. "Major Bell and H.J. Eberts have returned from Winnipeg." ok

"The Bell farm mill dam is full now." ok

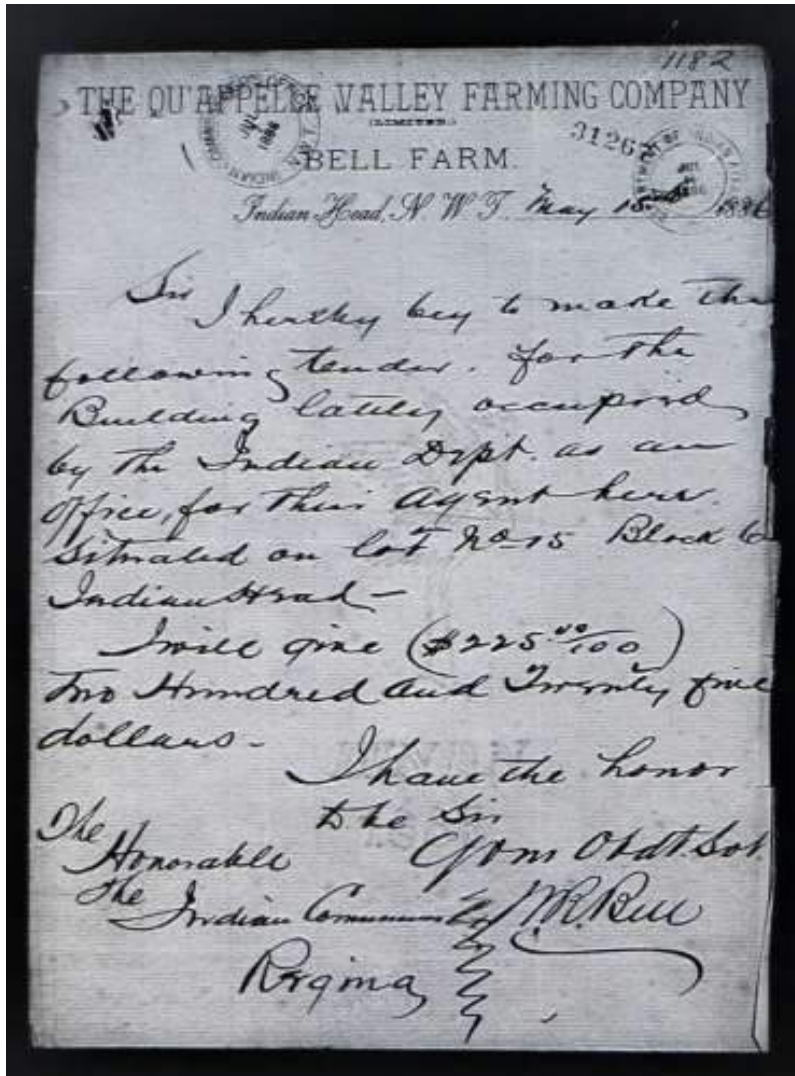
1886 – May 15 – (18 documents) Major Bell submits a tender to purchase the former Indian Agency building in Indian Head (Source: Library and Archives Canada: Black Series, RG 10, Volume 3717, File 22,550-4, Reel: C10125.) Full exchange from 1885 to 1919 follows:

**August 12, 1885** – letter from Indian Commissioner Edgar Dewdney to Superintendent of Indian Affairs, Sir John A. Macdonald, reporting that a new house should be built for Indian Agent William S. Grant on the Assiniboine Reserve, and that he (Dewdney) is negotiating sale of the old "warehouse" in Indian Head or for its removal to that Reserve. Later Notation: construction of new house on the Assiniboine Reserve is approved.

**Sept. 24, 1885** – confirmation that construction of the new house on the Assiniboine Reserve is approved.

**May 15, 1886** – Major Bell submits a tender for \$225 to the Indian Commissioner, Regina to purchase the surplus Indian Agent Office, located on Lot 15, Block 6, Indian Head.





200 kb

**July 6, 1886** – Dewdney write to the Macdonald stating that the tender from Major Bell is the only one received and recommends that it be accepted, before the unmaintained building deteriorates further. Later Notation: Lawrence Vankoughnet, Deputy Superintendent has added a notation asking what the building originally cost to be erected.

**July 24, 1886** – reply from Vankoughnet to Dewdney states that the building cost \$900 to build, and that the tender from Bell is therefore insufficient.

**Dec. 29, 1886** – Hayter Reed, Assistant Indian Commissioner writes to Macdonald reiterating that Bell's offer should be accepted before the building deteriorates further. Later Notation by Vankoughnet: building should be re-advertised for sale.

**Jan. 11, 1887** – *almost impossible to read*: writer, apparently Vankoughnet, tells Reed to proceed with advertising the building for sale.

22-1-50  
 Hayter Reed Esq.  
 Acting Indian Commr  
 in Charge I.H.A.T.  
 Regina, S.W.T.  
 11/12  
 Jan'y 11 1887.  
 Sir,  
 In answer to your  
 letter of the 29th ult.; and in reply  
 to inform you that  
 the Indian office  
 building at Indian  
 Head should be  
 advertised for sale in  
 tenders up to a fixed  
 date invited for the  
 purchase of it.  
 I am,  
 Sir,  
 Yours truly,  
 J. A. Macdonald

481 KB

**Feb. 12, 1887** – Joseph Glenn, of Indian Head, submits a tender for \$130 for the former Indian Agent Office; building to be removed within 30 days.

**Feb. 17, 1887** – Hayter Reed writes to Macdonald, stating Glenn's offer, and lamenting the fact that Bell's higher offer was rejected. Major Bell being away, Reed cannot ascertain if the original offer is still available. Later Notation by Vankoughnet: says Reed or Dewdney should determine if Bell's offer is still open, and, if so, it is now acceptable to Ottawa.

**March 2, 1887** – *very difficult to read* - Vankoughnet writes to Dewdney stating that Bell's original offer is now acceptable.

**April 11, 1888** – Duncan Campbell Scott, clerk in Dept of Interior, writes note to Deputy Minister in Ottawa – suggests that Dewdney be asked if Indian Head building was sold, and if not, what was done with it.

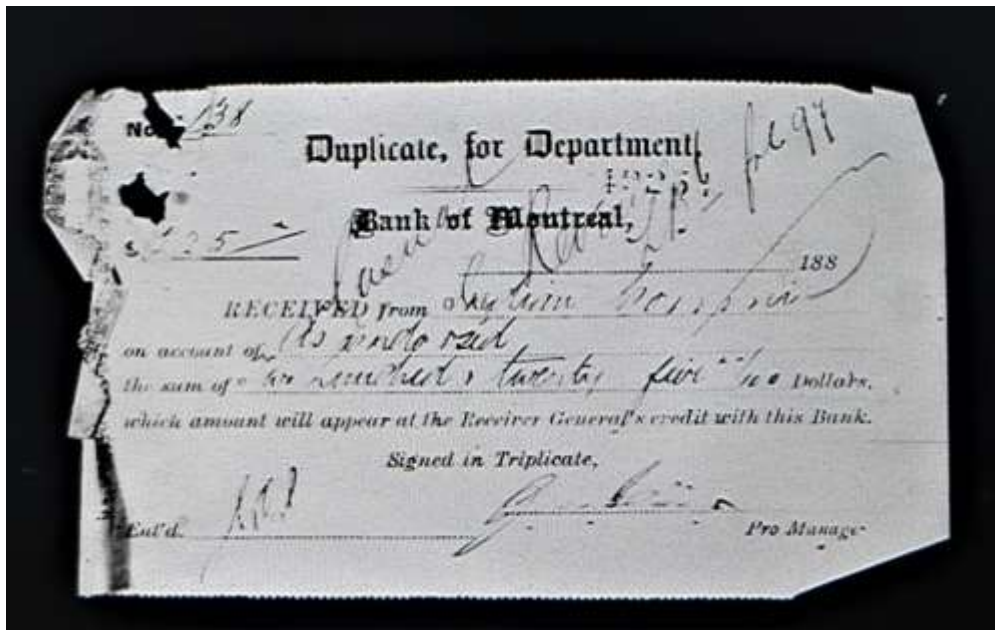
**April 19, 1888** - *almost impossible to read*: a repeat of Scott's request to the Deputy Minister: Notation by Vankoughnet - approved.

**April 30, 1888** – letter from \_\_\_\_\_ on behalf of Dewdney to Macdonald: Bell had withdrawn his offer, as the government's acceptance of it came too late; negotiations then proceeded with Mr. Crawford, Indian Head on behalf of another buyer, but that too fell through; the writer now recommends that the old Indian Agent office in Indian Head be dismantled and re-built on the Reserve for Indian Agent Grant (his new house would cost \$450 and this task would likely cost about the same); Later Notion by Vankoughnet: unclear handwriting but some form of expenditure is approved.

**May 11, 1888** – letter from Vankoughnet to Dewdney – approves removal of the Indian Head building

**June 19, 1888** – Dewdney to Macdonald - announces sale of former Indian Agent Office for \$225 and attaches cheque; Dewdney had recommended that the building be turned over to the Indian Agency and moved to the Assiniboine Reserve, however, when they went to move the building it was determined that it would cost too much and suffer too much damage; and, when an unexpected offer for \$225 was received, Dewdney accepted it without further consultation.

**1888 - Undated** receipt for \$225 – *text virtually illegible, "Received from" might be followed by "Indian Commissioner"*



589 KB

**Sept 5, 1919** – letter from Dan Maclean, Regina Land Titles Office to Secretary, Indian Affairs, Ottawa reporting that Indian Agent W.S. Grant sold the Indian Head building to him in about 1889-1890 for about \$200. Maclean asks for confirmation of this transaction in order to clear up an estate.

**Sept 16, 1919** – W.A. Orr, Land and Timber Branch, Ottawa, replies to Maclean that the name of the purchaser in 1888 was not provided with that earlier correspondence.

1886 – May 18 – Regina Leader: Indian Head: p. 4- far left and 2<sup>nd</sup> from left columns

Several references to the Bell Farm, the Mill, Professor Tanner, and 500 pigs

**INDIAN HEAD.**  
(Special Correspondence)

This western town of some 200 inhabitants distant 312 miles west of Winnipeg, and forty-four miles east of the Queen City, on the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, has already become noted at home and abroad, principally on account of the "Bell Farm." The great men of the earth when doing this country generally see the 57,000 acre farm. This may account for the presence of your correspondent. The present outlook from an agricultural standpoint is very hopeful. The Bell Farm alone has 6000 acres under cultivation, this season 5,800 being exclusively sown in wheat, the balance will be principally barley. The flouring mill owned by the Bell Farming Co., and which stands in close proximity to the C.P.R. Depot has a capacity of 150 bls. per day; the mill has been suspended for the time being, owing to some litigation in process between parties interested in stocks. They also have a grain elevator here with a capacity of 50,000 bushels, and thirty-two others scattered over the big farm with various capacities of from 500 to 1000 bushels each. These small elevators are utilized at convenient points to hold the immense harvest temporarily when being threshed. The present prospects indicate that the capacities of the thirty-four elevators will fall far short of being adequate to meet the wants this season, when this vast wheat field throws its golden harvest this fall. We find here three general stores, one harness shop, one blacksmith shop, two implement establishments and one tin shop, all in full blast and doing a rushing business. Everybody contented, many delighted, and all hopeful as to the future of the great Northwest, and their own town in particular.

W. R. Boyd is the proprietor of a commodious hotel, and Mrs. Boyd seems a very genial landlady. Miss Barnes teaches the young idea how to shoot; the school is a large one, with an average attendance of thirty youthful spirits, they speak volumes for this place. They have a new acquisition to the thriving town in the

46 kb

person of Dr. McGinnes, who will doubtless meet the medical wants of the people; they all look healthy at present, and if he fails to keep up present appearances, his skill be in doubt.

Rev. Alex. Hamilton attends to the spiritual wants of the place. During the writer's sojourn he had the pleasure of being present at an ordination service, when a promising young man named Gardiner was set apart for the ministry, and bid to go and fulfill the great commission of Him who went about doing good. There were a number of reverend gentlemen present, among whom we noticed the kind face of Revd. Mr. Urquhart of Regina. The services were very impressive.

Your correspondent was gratified to learn that Prof. Tanner, of South Kensington, London, England is about locating an agricultural college here. The large new brick hotel built by the Bell Farming Co. some time ago has been secured for a college and the company have granted them for the present object 640 acres of land in the vicinity. The C.P.R. have also done the same, thus two full sections will be utilized to farm the students out. The eminent Dr. Tanner will reach here some time in the latter part of June with thirty students. This college will be a valuable advertisement to the Northwest, and the presence of Dr. Tanner in this rich agricultural country will be like a bright star above the horizon.

We should have noted that the Bell Farm employs 300 men and 150 teams this season, paying some \$10,000 out monthly for wages, etc.

We learn that J. A. Kammerer, Agent C.P.R., at this place has been honored with the appointment as President of the Canadian Northwest Division of the National Railroad Station Agents' Association, a comparatively new organization, one that is destined to do much good and extend its influence all over the continent. The association has already won friends among all classes and is endorsed by leading railway officials who wish it success.

**BELL FARM.**

Visited Bell Farm. In splendid condition. Crop beautifully put in. Saw 500 young sucking pigs tagging away at their mother. Messrs. John Tazewell and E. T. Lawley York, both of Chedry, Bridgewater, Somersetshire, have been passing through the country with the view of settling here. They are both gentlemen of means. On Friday night they started for Calgary.

67 kb



## 1886 – May – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
208	1886	Paul R. Lyon	Fort Qu'Appelle	
209	May 12, 1886	<i>E. Thawray</i> -York	Bridgewater, Somerset	England
210		John <i>Tazewell</i> ....	<i>Chedroy</i> , Bridgewater Twp	England
211	May 23, 1886	B.H. Buxton	London, England	Same as # 49

1886 – May 10 - - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* - [check for details](#) – Frank's Note – no newspaper printed on this date.

1886 – May 19 – Formal establishment of the Bell Farm Company, with the following directors.

Robert William Bell, William Lewis Boyle, Duncan McArthur, William Rae Allan, Thomas Howard, Ralph Thomas Rokeby, and Hermann Joseph Eberts

(Notice published in the Canada Gazette for June 6, 1886 (see photo below for that date)

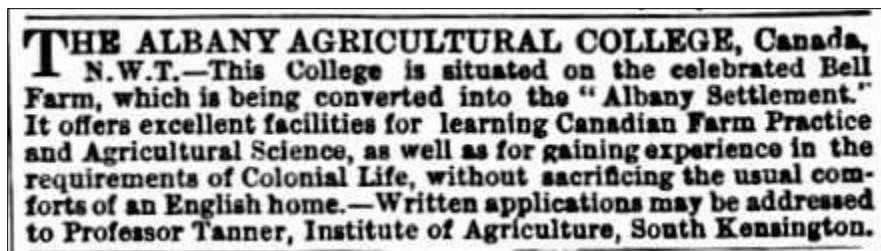
1886 – May 20 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript) [ok](#)

Indian Head. "Probably the complacent smile which illuminated the features of our municipal tax gatherer on his return from Regina, some weeks ago, will fade when he finds the suit of Municipality vs Bell Farm has gone the wrong way. Livery Bill of \$80, lawyers fees, and railway fares to and from Regina will probably be paid with a 'complacent' smile by the municipality and the small farmer taxed additionally for it, while the 'monopoly' scores a victory."

"Major Bell went to Minneapolis on Sunday night's train, to be gone ten days." [ok](#)

"The Bell farm have planted two acres of beans. What next?" [ok](#)

1886 – May 20 – *London Morning Post* – report on Albany Agricultural College / Settlement [ok](#)



61 kb

1886 – May 23 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg – pdf copy in file)

Indian Head: Includes references to the grist (flour) mill and elevator, as well as to 32 granaries (little elevators) scattered around the Bell Farm. (Frank's NOTE: [year might be 1887 – need to verify](#))

1886 – May 27 – *Qu’Appelle Vidette* – ok see also June 3 & June 4 below – same items????

p. 1 - Colonial and Indian Exhibition - “Tanner, Prof. drawing of a model colonial settlement proposed to be established in the Northwest – Bell Farm, Katepwa, and Fort Qu’Appelle in the distance.” – at London, England.

p. 3 - Indian Head. “Dr. McInnes is having considerable work - . . . Mr. Dickinson of the Bell Farm, thrown from horse breaking his collar bone – all doing as well as could be expected.” ok

p. 3 – Indian Head - “Mr. W.L. Boyle, president of Bell Far, is in town.” ok

“T Howard, of Winnipeg, and BP Buxton of London, Eng., were at the Bell farm on Saturday and Sunday.”  
(Frank: streets named after Buxton and Howard) – not May 27 - which issue????

1886 – May 28 – *Qu’Appelle Progress* (Marg’s transcript), p. 1

“An accident occurred at the Bell farm on Wednesday last by which Mr. W. Dickson sustained a fracture of the shoulder. He was jumping Mr. Sherwood’s pony over a hurdle when the pony fell and threw Mr. Dickson on his shoulder, causing the fracture.”

Marg: Item re Tanner, photocopied. – can’t find in newspaper – possibly May 27 above?

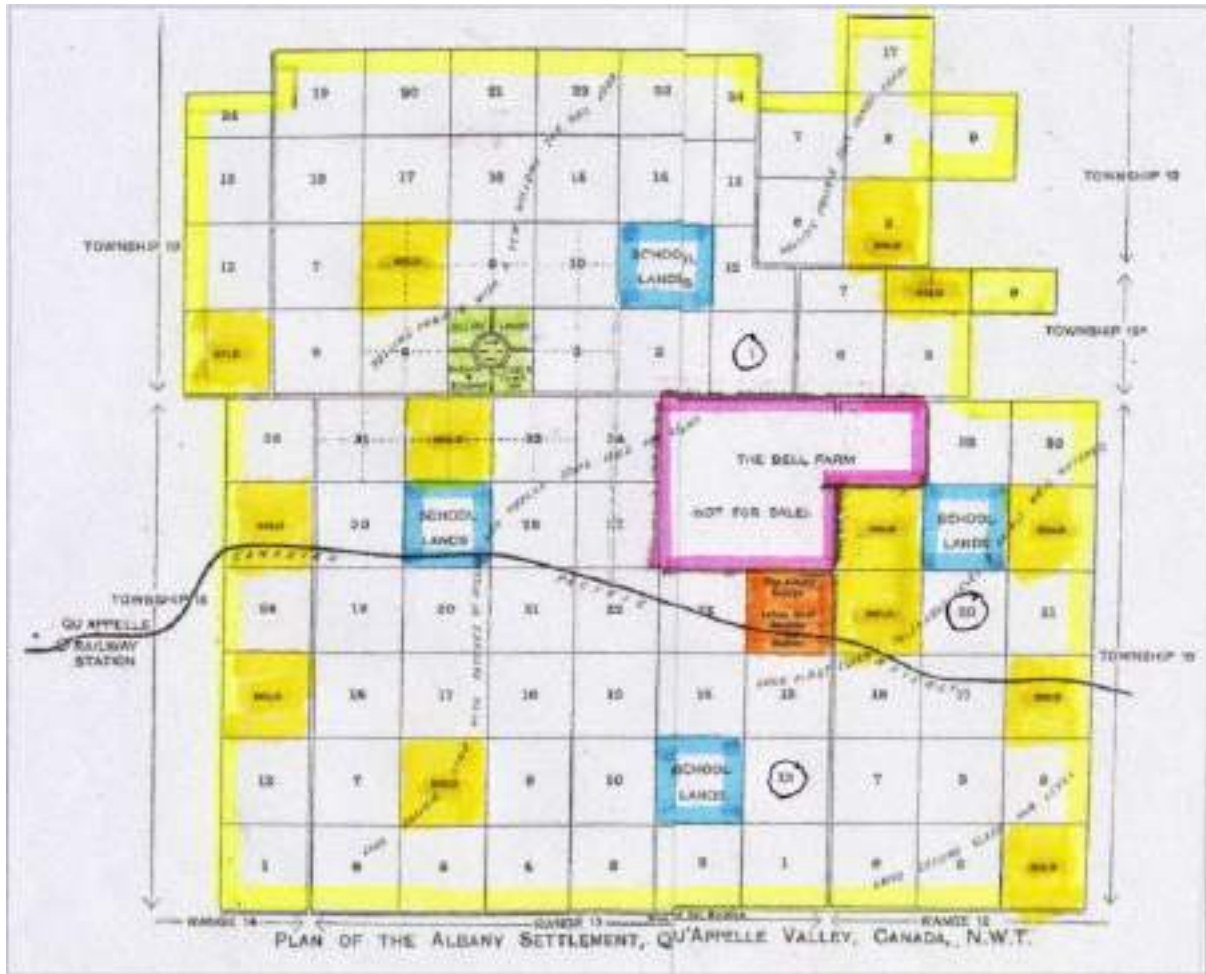
1886 – June 3 – *Qu’Appelle Vidette* (Marg’s transcript)

Indian Head. “Dr. McInnis is having considerable work . . . Mr. Dickinson, of the Bell farm, thrown from horse breaking his collar bone . . . all doing as well as could be expected.”

“Mr. W.L. Boyle, president of Bell farm, is in town.”

1886 – June 4 – *Qu’Appelle Vidette* (Marg provided PDF for files)

Discussion about Professor Tanner and the proposed Albany settlement and the Albany Agricultural College to be established in the near future at Indian Head. (Frank’s note: appears to be 1886, but need to verify if this is 1887.)



Map from Albany Settlement proposal, 1886. 478 kb

1886 – June 6 – *Canada Gazette* published names of new directors for the Bell Farm Company, which was legally formed on May 19, 1886:

**1732**

**GOVERNMENT NOTICES.**

**PUBLIC** Notice is hereby given that under "The Canada Joint Stock Companies Act, 1877," letters patent have been issued under the Great Seal of the Dominion of Canada, bearing date the 19th day of May, 1886, incorporating William Robert Bell, of Indian Head, in the North-West Territories, farmer; William Lewis Boyle, of the City of Winnipeg, in the Province of Manitoba, banker; Duncan MacArthur, of Winnipeg, aforesaid, banker; William MacAlban, of the same place, financial agent; Thomas Howard, of the same place, agent; Ralph Thomas Kokoby, of the same place, farmer, and Hermann Joseph Eberts, of Indian Head aforesaid, accountant; and the said parties are to be the first or provisional directors of the company, for the purposes of the acquiring, settling and conveying lands in the Province of Manitoba and the North-West Territories of Canada, of improving, cultivating, building upon, and otherwise improving the same, of buying and selling grain and other products of the soil, of

carrying on farming in all its branches, of breeding, raising, buying and selling cattle, horses and other stock, of buying, selling, leasing, renting, mortgaging and generally dealing in lands and all manner of interest in lands, of advancing money to assist settlers on lands purchased from the company, and securing repayment of such advances with interest on such terms and in such manner by way of mortgage or agreement as may be mutually agreed upon, and of carrying on trade as general manufacturers, merchants, millers and forwarders; of buying, selling, pledging, allotting or otherwise disposing of the bonds, debentures or stocks of any similar company, or of amalgamating with or becoming shareholders in such company, of establishing agencies in Canada or elsewhere for the purposes aforesaid, and for such purposes to have all necessary powers for borrowing and investing moneys, selling and disposing of real and personal property, and such other powers as may be necessary and incidental thereto,—by the name of "The Bell Farm Company," with a total capital stock of four hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars, divided into four thousand seven hundred and fifty shares of one hundred dollars.

Dated at the office of the Secretary of State of Canada, this 4th day of June, 1886.

J. A. CHAPLEAU,  
Secretary of State.

49-3

104 & 117 kb

## 1886 – June – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
212	June 4, 1886	Rev. L. Norman Tucker	Montreal	Quebec  Rev. L. Norman Tucker was appointed the Anglican Principal of the Sabrevois Mission College, Montreal in 1879, and in 1893 the Rector of Christ Anglican Church, Vancouver. He visited the Bell Farm on June 4, 1886. In his 1911 book 'Sea to Sea' Tucker refers to Bishop Anson and the "Railway Mission" in Saskatchewan.
213	June 5, 1886	W.F. Henderson	Winnipeg	Manitoba
214	June 14, 1886	Henry <i>Afreif</i>	London	England
215	"	W.E. Brown	Qu'Appelle Station	Saskatchewan
216		H. <i>Fennergreig</i>	Qu'Appelle Station	Saskatchewan
217		W. <i>Syme</i> Redpath	Qu'Appelle Station	Saskatchewan
218		L. <i>R.</i> Empey	Qu'Appelle Station	Saskatchewan
219		Edythe Empey	Qu'Appelle Station	Saskatchewan
220		Helene Empey	Qu'Appelle Station	Saskatchewan

1886 – June 10 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

Indian Head. "Major Bell is at Ottawa."

1886 – June 11 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript)

**"Major Bell's Schemes:** Major Bell, of the famous Bell farm, is at the Queen's on a short visit to the city. "Everything on the farm looks splendid at present" he said. Its perfect in fact. I never in any previous year saw anything to equal the condition of the crops at this season. I expect wheat will be headed out in two weeks"

"What about the proposed agricultural college?"



“Well, Prof. Tanner who is to have charge of it is now in England to obtain students. We expect to have about fifty students, so that it will be quite a large institution. Prof. Tanner and an assistant will conduct the college and instruction will be given in practical and theoretical farming. A small sum will be charged students to cover actual expenses. I feel sure it will be a great success and will be the means of inducing many young Englishmen and others to come to this country and settle, after receiving a thorough training in the college.”

“I noticed in the Sun last night,” continued the Major, “a paragraph about a man in Texas who was starting a buffalo ranche, and it was referred to as a novel and an excellent idea. I was specially interested in it, as a number of us are now forming a joint stock company to start a buffalo ranche near Winnipeg. We have purchased Capt. Bedson’s herd of buffalo, and intend to establish a fancy stock farm. We will get some three or four hundred cattle and cross breed them with buffalo, and will also bring to the country a large number of thoroughbred cattle.” - Sun

1886 – June 12 – *Calgary Weekly Herald*, p. 3 – Bells to establish buffalo farm; & agricultural college news

“**TELEGRAPHIC- CANADIAN NEWS** –Winnipeg, June 7 - Major Bell intends establishing a buffalo breeding farm. He also expects to have 50 pupils at the agricultural college farm”

1886 – June 17 – *Qu’Appelle Vidette* (Marg’s transcript)

Indian Head. “Wheat twenty inches high on the Bell farm.”

1886 – June 18 – *Qu’Appelle Progress*, p. 1

“A Novel Scheme”: [Bedford’s proposal & Northwest Buffalo Breeding Company – extensive text, ending with this comment on Major Bell’s involvement:](#)

“Major Bell, who is a director and also secretary-treasurer of the proposed company, left for the east to interview Canadian and American capitalists, and hopes in thirty days to have the agreements for the organization of the company fully under way. A small amount of stock has been reserved for Winnipeggers who may desire to invest. – Manitoban.”

1886 – June 25 – *Qu’Appelle Progress*, p.     

[Major Bell and the Qu’Appelle Valley Farming Company \(Bell Farm\) were actively involved with this Commission, which met in Qu’Appelle in June of 1886.](#)

**“REBELLION CLAIMS COMMISSION** The Commission at present sitting here under the chairmanship of Justice Ouimet, is dealing only with claims for losses during the rebellion, and not with claims against the Militia Department for transport or other services. This Commission has been appointed and is acting under instructions from the Department of the Interior not the Department of Militia and Defence, and is completing its labours as far as reception of evidence

is concerned at this point. When the Commissioners leave here they go to Ottawa, making a short stay at Winnipeg to complete their enquiry into the claims of the merchants in the north and west.”

1886 – June 25 – *Edmonton Bulletin* (as reported in 1910) – buffalo ranche formation

“A company has been formed to start a buffalo ranche, and has bought S.L. Bedson’s Stoney Mountain herd for a start. The idea is a good one. The weak point of the scheme is that Major Bell of the Bell farm is at the head of it.”

1886 – June 26 – *Edmonton Journal*, p. 4 – buffalo ranch proposal (same article as above)

“**LOCAL** - A company has been formed to start a buffalo ranche, and has bought S.L. Bedson’s Stoney Mountain herd for a start. The idea is a good one. The weak point of the scheme is that Major Bell of the Bell farm is at the head of it.”

1886 – July 2 – *Qu’Appelle Progress* – p. \_\_\_\_

New 24 Hour Time Table for CPR trains indicates time that the trains passed through Indian Head – not much opportunity to see the Bell Farm at 9:45 pm going West or 2:48 a.m. going East.

**24 O’CLOCK.**  
**Canadian Pacific Ry.**  
**CHANGE OF TIME**  
**WESTERN DIVISION.**  
**TIME TABLE!**  
 In Effect June 27th, 1886.

HEAD DOWN	STATIONS.	HEAD UP
12 17 50 <i>LT</i>	Winnipeg	AR C 9 00
13 22	Nat Portage	11 30
14 10	Igouga	21 30
18 45	Savanne	28 20
E 11 45 <i>AR</i>	St. Arthur	LT 23 15 10
<hr/>		
WEST		EAST
A 9 40 <i>LT</i>	Winnipeg	AR A 17 10
11 48	Portage la Prairie	15 05
13 55	Carberry	12 50
15 10	Brandon	11 35
17 07	Virdua	9 42
17 45	Elkhorn	9 04
18 10	Flaming	8 50
18 38	Moosemin	8 11
19 15	Wapella	7 45
19 45	Whitewood	7 01
20 20	Broadview	6 09
20 00	Oakshella	4 40
20 20	Grandell	4 29
20 38	Summerbury	4 00
20 58	Wolsley	3 28
21 17	Sistrinuk	3 15
21 45	Indian Head	2 48
22 14	Qu’Appelle	2 17
22 40	McLean	1 45
23 04	Udgonia	1 20
23 22	St. Louis	1 11
23 45	Regina	24 00
24 25	Grand Coulee	24 25
24 45	Ponca	24 00

51 kb

1886 – July 3 – *Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 1 – Bell Farm teamsters during 1885 Rebellion

“It may please some of the teamsters who were docked on either time or rates for their services with the troops to Pitt last spring to know that the Bell farm teams and those the property of Major Bell received \$10 a day from the beginning of the outbreak until the 1<sup>st</sup> of May, and \$8 a day from that time until their return to Indian Head after the transport business was wound up. At the same time Major Bell was paying \$4.50 a day to teamsters to haul freight for which the government paid him \$125 a ton.”

1886 – 8 July – *The Star* – Major Bell and the North-West Buffalo Breeding Company

“**A NEW LIVE STOCK VENTURE.** Major Bell, of Indian Head (Bell Farm), has completed his arrangements for the incorporation of the North-West Buffalo Breeding Company. He says it is the intention of the company to cross the buffalo with the Polled Angus breed. In this way the hide alone would be worth more than the price of the Polled Angus heifer. It is also claimed that a breed of cattle will be raised which will be valuable in many ways to the farmers of the North-West.”

1886 – July 15 – Qu’Appelle Vidette (Marg’s transcript)

Indian Head. “Major Bell went east on Friday.

“Quite a number of the Bell Farm employees indulged in a strike last week, and as a result there are quite a number looking for work.”

1886 – July 23 – Qu’Appelle Progress (Marg’s transcript)

Katepwa. Mrs. Major Bell attended a picnic in aid of the English church building at the foot of Fishing Lakes.

1886 – July 27 – Winnipeg Free Press (published in Fifty Years Ago – July 27, 1936)

“The Bell Farm at Indian Head started a full force of reapers cutting wheat; the grain was fully ripe, and the sample equal to any heretofore grown at Indian Head; the yield was estimated at 30 to 35 bushels to the acre. The Northwest Rebellion Claims commission, Ottawa, had almost completed its report.”

1886 – July      - Sir John A. and Lady Macdonald pass through Indian Head en route to the Pacific Coast.

Although Major Bell was a staunch Conservative, no mention is made of them stopping to visit with Major and Mrs. Bell.

1886 – July 29 - Qu’Appelle Vidette - – check for details

1886 – July 29 – Qu’Appelle Progress (Marg’s transcript)

Marg: Hon. Thomas White, Minister of the Interior, plus harvest report. White signed the Bell Farm Visitors Register on a previous visit, on Oct. 25, 1885 (# 203).

**THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR.**

The Hon. Thomas White, the Minister of the Interior in the Dominion Government will arrive early this (Thursday) morning, accompanied by his family and remain a few hours. At ten o'clock he will drive to Edgeley farm, escorted by a procession to be formed of the citizens of the town in carriages. At the Sykes farm he will witness the workings of the steam plows, and partake of luncheon, after which he will proceed to Paquanaw's reserve, where there will be a big Indian pow-wow. From the reserve the party will drive to Fort Qu'Appelle. At the Fort Mr. T. W. Jackson, M. N. W. C., will entertain Hon. Mr. White and family. Tomorrow (Friday) a picnic will be held at the foot of Fishing Lakes, after which the party will go to Indian Head, and after visiting the Bell farm take the train for the east. The trip of the hon. gentleman cannot fail to result in much good to the country and we trust it will be enjoyed while he is glancing information for the benefit of his department.

46 kb

**INDIAN HEAD.**

—The Bell farm has started, full force of cutting wheat. It is fully ripe, and the sample is equal if not better than any heretofore grown in this section. There are some fields which it will not pay to reap, but the crop on the Bell farm is fully two-thirds and likely a little more. One field of six hundred acres is excellent and estimated by competent judges to yield 30 to 35 bushels per acre. The McKay Farming Co. also have over 1,300 acres which will yield from 25 to 30 bushels per acre, which they begin cutting to-day. Oats which were sown late are in good condition and likely to yield well. Barley is short in the straw, but promises an excellent yield.

59 kb

1886 – Aug. 3 – *Regina Leader* p. 1 – Excellent Crop Outlook for Bell Farm

**“INDIAN HEAD: An Excellent Crop Outlook:** Indian Head, July eq. – The Bell Farm start a full force of reapers cutting wheat to-morrow. It is fully ripe, and the sample is equal, if not better, than any grown in this section. There are some fields which it will not pay to reap, but the crop on the Bell Farm is fully two-thirds and likely a little more. One field of six hundred acres is excellent, and estimated by competent judges to yield 30 to 35 bushels per acres.”

1886 – Aug. 5 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

**Indian Head.** “Where is Professor Tanner, he is long past due.”

Small farmers reporting poor crops but “The Bell farm began cutting wheat on July 27<sup>th</sup>. It is fully ripe and no doubt will be a fine sample”

1886 – Aug. 5 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 2 left column (Marg's transcript)

Minister White's tour, which included Edgeley Farm, ended with a picnic at Katepwa. “After the picnic, Major Bell took Mr. White into his carriage, the Fort people returned; some of the Qu'Appelle people went round by Indian Head, and all making their way home in different directions. Thus ended according to Mr. White, one of the most pleasing outings he has ever had the good fortune to enjoy.” [NOTE: Thomas White had previously visited the Bell Farm on Oct. 25, 1885, and signed the Visitors Register at that time.]

1886 – Aug. 12 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. \_\_\_, left column (Marg's transcript)

**Home and Gossip:** “About 15 o'clock on Friday last fire was discovered in a double barn near the Northern Bell Farm Cottage occupied by Geo Bingham. The barn contained two horses which were burned to death, and the barn with contents will be a complete loss.”

1886 – Aug. 12 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette*, left column (Marg's transcript)

**Indian Head.** Visit of Mr. Sherriff Chapleau to Mrs. Major Bell.

“On Friday, at about 15 o'clock, fire was discovered in the double barn adjoining one of the Bell farm, northern division, cottages. Two horses in the barn were burned to death, and the building was burned to the ground. The cause of the fire is supposed to be Indians who were in the barn at noon, smoking.”

“Major Bell and HJ Ebert went to Winnipeg on Friday, the 6<sup>th</sup> inst, and are to return the middle of next week.”

“Duncan McArthur, president, Commercial Bank of Manitoba, and Prof. Hart, of Manitoba College, were visiting at Bell farm last week.”

1886 – Aug. 19 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. \_\_\_, right column. - Bell Farming Company / Bell Farm Company established

**“INDIAN HEAD** The Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company has been absorbed by the new organization, under the name of the Bell Farm Company (Limited). The latter has taken over the assets of the former and assumed its liabilities. The officers remain the same. The new name is in consonance with their property, the well-known Bell Farm.”

1886 – Aug. 26 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 1, centre column

Sir John A. & Lady Macdonald stopped briefly at Qu'Appelle on Friday, Aug. 20, at 2 pm, en route East. Also stopped for 15 minutes at Wolseley, and at Moosomin, but no stop at Indian Head to visit the Bell Farm; but he would have seen the Farm from the train as it travelled through the 10 mile wide farm.

1886 – August – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
221	August 9, 1886	Caroline <i>R.</i> Chapleau	Ottawa	Ontario
222	August 14, 1886	G. Pearson Bell, M.D.	Cottingham, Hull, England	<a href="#">George Pearson Bell was a surgeon in Qu'Appelle and signed the Register the year he arrived from England. He later became a surgeon with the RNWMP.</a>

223	“	George William Roberts	<i>Luntwaddine, Herfordshire, England</i>	
224	August 23, 1886	<i>Rod.... Matheson</i>	Scotland	
225	“	Kingston	Erin	Ireland
226		.....	<i>...Cavan, Ireland</i>	
227		<i>.....F.B. Dopping Hepenstel</i>	County Longford, Ireland	

## 1886 – Supreme Court of the NWT – Law Suits

SAB File	Microfiche Box Reference	District Court / Supreme Court of NWT	Conflicting Parties	Year(s)	Comments
878	B 10	SCNWT 3/87 (86?)	Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company Vs. R. Railton	1886-1888	
1073	C 13	SCNWT 250/86	Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company Vs. R. Railton	1886-87	
1085	E 13	SCNWT 263/86	R. Insinger Vs. Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company	1886-87	
1138	N 13	SCNWT 333/86	S.W. Caswell Vs. W. Bell	1886	Not sure if W. Bell is W.R. Bell or someone else
1142	) 13	SCNWT 337/86	A.J. Osment Vs. J. Tutty	1885-1886	

## 1886 – September – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
229	Sept. 5, 1886	Joel Cook "The London Times"	Philadelphia, USA	Joel Cook was a Philadelphia based special correspondent for the London Times, financial editor of the Philadelphia Public Ledger , author and later a US Congressman . Cook wrote about Louis Riel in his book "America, picturesque and descriptive".

230		George W.C. Cook	Philadelphia, USA	George William Childs Cook accompanied his father, Joel Cook, to the Bell Farm in 1886; born in 1870 and died in 1918 of pneumonia, in Philadelphia.
231		F.H. Brydges	Winnipeg	Manitoba: Brydges was the senior partner of FH Brydges and Sons, Land Insurance and Commission Agents, Winnipeg and married to Jean Crawford Allan, niece of Alexander Allan, Entry 282.
232		Anson	Shugborough, Stafford	England:

1886 – Sept 6 – *A Canadian Tour: Entering the Great North-West Territory* – correspondent from *the Times*, p. 26 & 27 – references to flour mill and hiring 150 Sioux to help with harvest

**OTTAWA.**  
It is on the rich soil of the Qu'Appelle Valley that the Canadian Pacific Railway passes for

ten miles through the "Bell Farm," which is believed to be the largest farm of contiguous territory in the world. It covers a surface of about 100 square miles, a few sections of school lands in parts of the tract, however, not being owned by the company. In the centre of the farm is the railway station of Indian Head, so called from a curious hill on one of the Indian reserves near it on the south-west. This is about 1,750 miles west of Montreal, the lands having been carefully selected before the railway was built, but in anticipation of its construction, the route having been then located. This great farm contains 23,587 acres, bought from the Canadian Government, the railway and the Hudson's Bay Company, so that there were thus obtained all the sections in the tract. The company was incorporated in 1892, by Canadian and British shareholders, the intention being to break up and prepare for cultivation about 10,000 acres, half of which was to be summer-fallowed every year, and at the end of five years to divide the estate into small farms and soil. The original capital was £120,000, and the shareholders have paid up £100,000, while £30,000 six per cent debentures have been issued. No dividends have yet been paid, as large expenditures have been made according to the original plan, and it was thought best to reinvest profits rather than call additional share payments. The South-West rebellion last year interfered with the farm work, as the terms were all in use for transport services to the remote region where Bell's farms were located, and this year the drought has somewhat curtailed the wheat yield, but it is estimated at about 20 bushels to the acre, the threshing being yet incomplete. There were 5,000 acres under crop this year, and next season about 10,000 acres will be cultivated. Several farms have this season been sold off to newly-arrived colonists, the terms being about 50s. per acre for unimproved land, and £3 to £3 5s. for land that has been broken and back-set and got thoroughly ready for cultivation. The president of the company says that with fair crops hereafter they expect to put aside £5,000 sinking fund annually to reduce the debentures, and pay 8 per cent. dividends, while the disposal of the lands—the larger part of the tract being held on speculation—will give a return on capital account. They have built a flour mill, and expect hereafter to grind all their wheat, thus saving freight charges and being enabled to use the refuse in feeding cattle and pigs, these in future making from their sales an important item in the annual returns. The labour question, formerly an important element, both as to cost and the difficulty of obtaining labourers, has been solved by the employment of Indians, no less than 150 Sioux having this year aided in gathering the harvest. To assist the agricultural prospects of this section it is the intention next spring to open a college in a building just erected at a cost of about £2,000, and to receive pupils, under the name of the Albany College, called after the late Duke of Albany. This will be under the personal supervision of Professor Turner, so well known in connection with agriculture.

I made a survey of a part of this great farm, riding over the rich black soil and seeing the thrashing processes. The wheat fields, just harvested, stretched as far as eye could see from one point of observation, while in another region the ploughing had turned the black soil over in the process of summer-fallowing, so that the square miles of land to be put down in next year's wheat crop would be ready for early sowing in April. There were 200

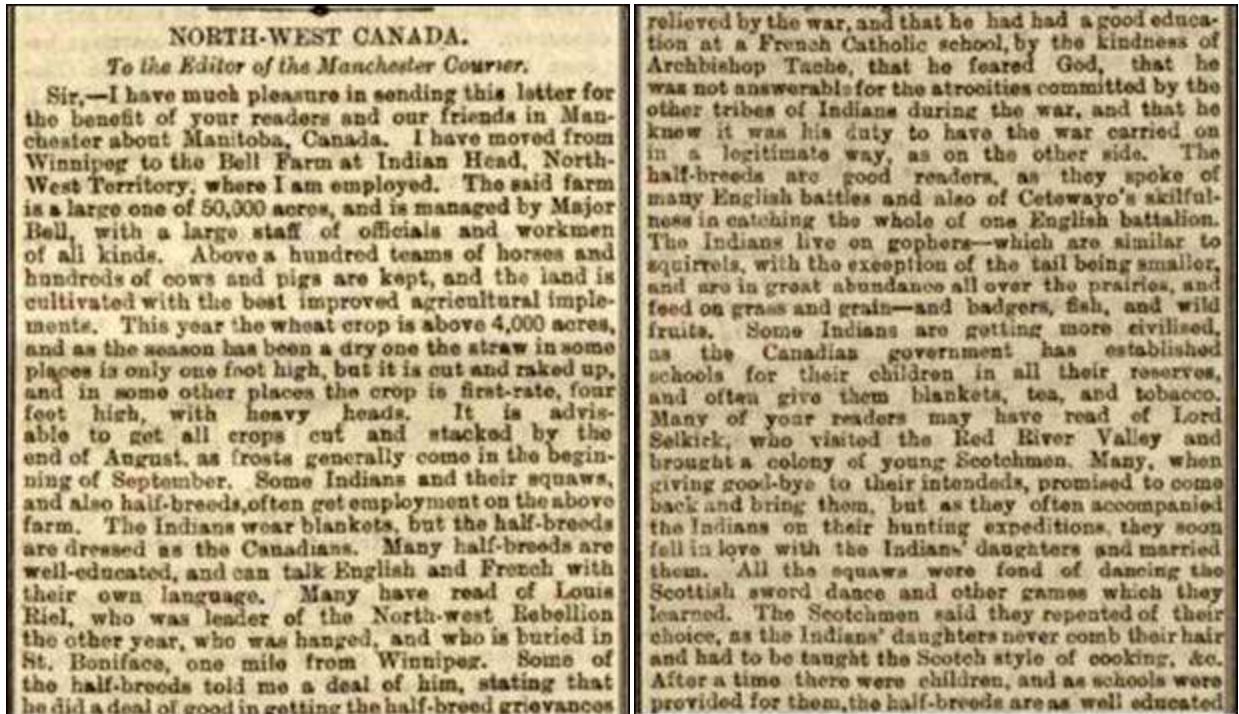
### The Coming Metropolis

horses, 250 cattle, and 300 hogs on the estate, and the outfit of agricultural machinery embraced 45 reapers and binders, 73 ploughs, six mowers, 40 seeders, 80 harrows, and seven complete steam outfits for thrashing. Major Bell, the manager, is one of the greatest farmers of America, of ripe experience and great ability. He tells me that in working the land, the very careful accounts kept show that it costs about 8s. per acre to originally break up and backset, while afterwards the ploughing for the crop is worth about 2s. per acre. The actual cost of producing wheat, including every expense, with interest on the cost of the land and allowance for wear and tear, is about 20s. per acre. The profit of the farm will consequently depend on the yield. They get about 3s. to 3s. 2d. per bushel at the railway at present, while their freight charge to Montreal is 1s. 6d. per bushel. By turning the wheat into flour, for which there is a good demand in the extreme North-West, the profit is greater, and the refuse fattens the cattle and hogs, which are always in demand. His experience has shown that the proper method of treating this land is by summer-fallowing, so that a wheat crop is raised every second year. He has also divided the estate into farms of 200 acres each, finding this sub-division the best method of economical working, each small farm having its own outfit of horses and machinery, the whole being supervised by foremen, each of whom overlooks a number of these small farms. The buildings and equipment of this great farm are of the most complete character, and it is one of the institutions of Canada. The fertile soil has been found to extend to great depths in the Qu'Appelle Valley, the boring of artesian wells having brought up the same rich black loam as is on the surface from a depth of 300ft. in some places. The wheat belt does not extend a great distance further westward, however, but it is almost beyond comprehension to estimate the ultimate value as a wheat-producer of this vast fertile belt in Manitoba, Assiniboia, and Dakota, which covers a surface about 500 miles long by 250 miles in width. Here is grown the famous "No. 1 hard," which yields the best flour known, and this year has such plump berries that it weighs from 62lb. to 65lb. per bushel. Such is the "fertile belt" on the future development of which Canada bases such great hopes.

1886 – Sept. 13 – Letter from Wink to Bell re: loss of Ontario court case: MacDougall vs. Hall

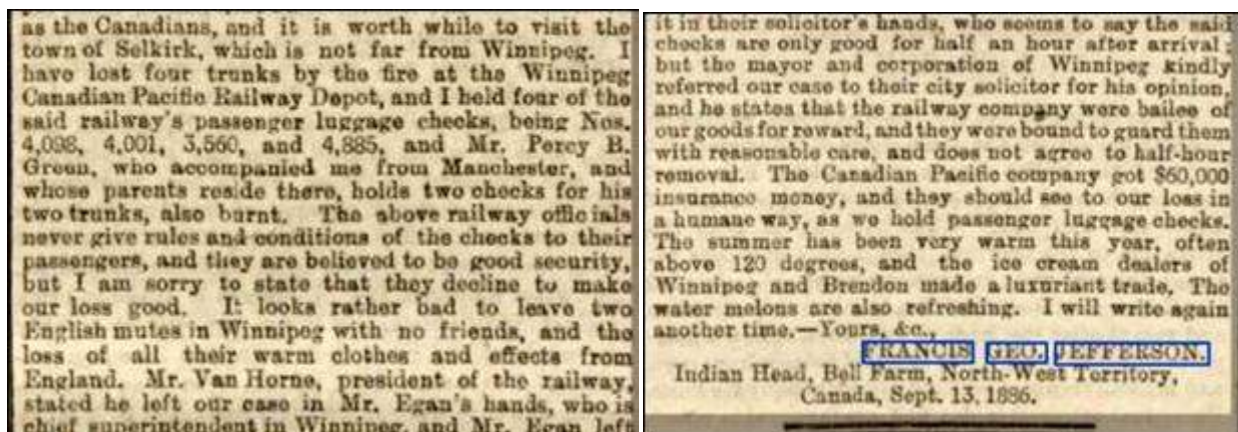
Port Arthur lawyer A.S. Wink informs Major Bell that the court case in which he was involved has been lost in favour of MacDougall and Gehe (or Gehl ?). This relates to distribution of mining shares in the Port Arthur area – perhaps the Rabbit Mountain Mining Company in which Major Bell bought 2,200 shares in 1885.

1886 – Sept. 28 – *The Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser*, p. 7 – Correspondence: North-West Canada – letter from Francis George Jefferson – Indigenous men and women and Métis work at the Bell Farm, as well as five deaf mutes:



Part 1 – Manchester Courier 92 kb

Part 2 95 kb



Part 3 58 kb

Part 4 65 kb



1886 – Oct. 1 – Excerpt from Sir John Lister-Kaye Diary (transcript by Hugh Henry)

Oct. 1 (in Alberta)

"I write to Major Bell saying I have told friends in England that he is obtaining L4 - 4 - per acre for land & is that correct --"

1886 – Oct. 5 – *Regina Leader*, p. 3 - Law suit over non-payment of wages and improper dismissal: Good vs Bell – Good won

**Masters and Servants Ordinance.  
No. 5 of 1879.**

To the Editor of the LEADER.

DEAR SIR,—A case possessing considerable interest to the public was tried before Justice Davidson at Qu'Appelle, on 12th July last. Some of the workmen on the Bell Farm issued summonses under the above Ordinance, against Major Bell, the General Manager of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company, for non-payment of wages and improper dismissal. The first summons (that of Good v. Bell,) was selected as a test case. Mr. R. Dundas Strong appeared as counsel for the complainant, and Mr. Eberts for the defendant. On the part of the defendant, it was contended that the Ordinance itself was *ultra vires*; (2) that the summonses was issued against the wrong defendant, Major Bell being only the Manager, and the real defendant (if any), the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Co.; (3) that the plaintiff himself committed a breach of the Ordinance by refusing to work after being requested to do so by the foreman.

Mr. Strong, on behalf of the plaintiff, contended (1) that the Magistrate had no jurisdiction to try the validity of the Ordinance, but was bound by it; (2) that on the evidence of the plaintiff it was proved that the contract or employment, (which was a verbal one) had been entered into by the defendant with the plaintiff in the former's individual capacity, and not as Manager for a Company, of whose existence or ownership of the farm, no notice or knowledge had been proved to have been given to or possessed by the plaintiff; (3) that at the time of the plaintiff's refusing to continue work, his wages were proved to be in arrears (the hiring being a monthly one,) and that consequently the plaintiff was entitled to treat the contract as broken by the defendant and to proceed under the Ordinance for the wages in arrears.

After a protracted hearing the Magistrate reserved his decision, and on the 16th of July gave judgment for the plaintiff and ordered defendant to pay the wages proved to be due and the costs. Notice of appeal was given by Mr. Eberts on behalf of the defendant, but this was subsequently abandoned and the amount claimed on this summons as well as on the other summonses together with the costs, was subsequently paid by the defendant.

Faithfully,  
R. D. S.

1886 – Oct. 5 – *Regina Leader* p. 4 – Law Suit Insinger vs Bell Farm [Money Value: £100 = \$500]

"LAW. Before Mr. Justice Richardson. On Tuesday the High Court of Justice of the Regina District, sat at Qu'Appelle Station. An interesting case was that of Insinger v. the Bell Farm. A cross action. Bell Farm suing for \$150 for board. Insinger suing Bell Farm for breach of contract, he having paid £100 (\$500) to learn farming, the Bell Farm having advertised that they had an Agricultural College. Scott, Q.C. for Insinger; J.M. Benson, for Bell Farm. Judgement reserved."

1886 – Oct. 14 – Qu’Appelle Progress – Indian Head Fair results – published Dec 16.

The Bell Farm mentioned for the following:

Class A:

- General Purpose Stallion – Second
- 2 Year Old stallion, any class – Second
- General Purpose Team – Third
- Carriage Horse in harness – Second
- Filly One Year Old – Second
- Foal of 1886, First and Second
- Saddle Horse – First

Class D:

- Boar Over 1 Year – First

Class F:

- 20 Bushel Red Fyfe (Special by Major Bell) – prize provider

1886 – Oct. 26 – The NW Buffalo and Breeding Company Ltd formed.

Directors include: Bedson, Norquay, Bell, Howard and Eden: Source: Canada Gazette for 20 Nov. 1886, p. 1029

[http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/canada-gazette/093/001060-119.01-e.php?document\\_id\\_nbr=4491&image\\_id\\_nbr=107781&f=p&PHPSESSID=7b2cobbnnfu1n47op3u4hu3i03](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/canada-gazette/093/001060-119.01-e.php?document_id_nbr=4491&image_id_nbr=107781&f=p&PHPSESSID=7b2cobbnnfu1n47op3u4hu3i03)

1886 – Nov. 9 – Qu’Appelle Vidette (Marg’s transcript)

Marg: Indian Head. Qu’Appelle Valley Farming Company vs Railton.

(no Osment ads for months and months.)

1886 – Nov. 25 – Qu’Appelle Vidette (Marg’s transcript)

Indian Head. “Major and Mrs. Bell returned from the east on Monday.”

1886 – Dec. 2 – *Qu’Appelle Progress*, p. 1 right column – concerning Nov. 13, 1886 Town Council meeting:

“INDIAN HEAD COUNCIL Council met on the 13<sup>th</sup> inst, all present.

Moved by coun. Bunnell sec. by coun. Powell that a special committee of three be appointed to consider communication from Johnson & Forbes re Qu’Appelle Valley Farming Co., vs Railton. Carried.”

And later:

“Moved by coun. Partridge, sec. by coun. Brooks that the chairman be authorized to enter appeal in the case, Qu’Appelle Valley Farming Co., vs Railton and that an order for three hundred dollars be drawn on the treasurer in his favour to make the necessary deposit for same. Carried.”

1886 – Dec 16 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* report on Indian Head Fair results – See: Oct. 14, 1886.

1886 – Dec. 21 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript)

Indian Head Council. "Moved by coun. Bundell sec. by coun. Powell that a special committee of three be appointed to consider communications from Johnson and Forbes re Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Co., vs. Railton. Carried." (*Railton is the tax collector.*)

"Moved by coun. Partridge, sec by coun Brooks that the chairman be authorized to enter an appeal in the case Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Co., vs Railton and that an order for \$300 be drawn on the treasurer in his favor to make the necessary deposit for same. Carried."

1886 – 31 Dec. – Annual Report for the Secretary of State: North-West Buffalo Company Ltd.

**THE NORTH-WEST BUFFALO BREEDING COMPANY (Limited)**

Incorporated 26th October, 1886. - Amount of Capital Stock, \$75,000.

Number of Shares, 7,500.—Amount of each Share, \$10.

*Corporate Members* :—Samuel Laurence Bedson, Warden of the Manitoba Penitentiary; the Hon. John Norquay; the Hon. Thomas Howard; William Robert Bell, Manager of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company; and Arthur Frederick Eden, Land Commissioner of the Manitoba and North-Western Railway Co.

*First or Provisional Directors* :—Samuel Laurence Bedson, John Norquay, Thomas Howard, William Robert Bell, and Arthur Frederick Eden.

*Chief Place of Business* :—Winnipeg, Man.

*Objects of the Company* :—(1.) The acquiring by purchase, lease, hire or otherwise of one or more cattle or other ranches, cattle or buffalo runs, also farm lands, timber lands and other real or personal property in the Province of Manitoba, in the North-West Territories and elsewhere in the Dominion of Canada, necessary or desirable in the interests or for the purposes of the proposed Company, and the working of said lands and timber, and the disposal of the same by sale, lease, hire or otherwise. (2.) The buying, selling, breeding, raising and otherwise dealing in thoroughbred or less than thoroughbred buffalo, also in cattle, horses, mules, sheep, and all other kind of live stock, in all the branches of said business, including the slaughter and the buying and selling in carcase or as butcher's meat of such of said species of animals as are used for such purposes. (3.) The raising, buying, selling and otherwise dealing in all kinds of grain and farm and dairy products, and generally the carrying on of all agricultural, farming and dairy operations, and the construction and carrying out of all buildings, mills, and other improvements considered necessary or advisable in the interest of the company. (4.) The purchasing or acquiring the stock, business, assets and property of any Company or person carrying on business similar to the business of the proposed Company, and the carrying on of the business of such Company, or person as required, and engaging in any business or transaction within the corporate object of the proposed Company in partnership or in conjunction with any person or other Company. (5.) Generally the doing of all such things as are incidental to or are considered advisable for the purposes of the Company.

# 1887

1887 – Rebellion Losses Claims and Report – Canadian Sessional Papers – [check for details](#)

Jan 20 1887 - source ??????

Major WR Bell and wife, of Indian Head, NWT are in town. Mr Bell who is the leading shareholder in the famous Bell Farm, leaves this week for England where he will organize a company of English capitalists for developing a silver mine at Rabbit Mountain, Port Arthur district."

Manitoba Free Press March 14 1887 reports that Major Bell has returned from England

1887 – Jan. 6 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

Indian Head. "Major Bell returned from the east on Tuesday's train."

1887 – Jan. 13 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

Indian Head. "Mrs. And Major Bell left by Friday's train for a two month's trip to Eastern Canada and Europe."

"Councillor E.J. Brooks was in Regina, last Friday, on business connected with the Bell farm tax suits."

1887 – Jan. 27 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 1 , third column (Marg's transcript)

"Moved by councilors Partridge and Bunnell that council suspend general order of business in order to take up and application from the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Co. through their agent Mr. Dunlop for an extension of two weeks time to pay their municipal taxes and also hear a complaint from RC Rigby against his collector.

"The council were in favor of extending the time as requested by Mr. Dunlop and suggested to the collector the advisability of restraining him from harsh means until the expiration of the time asked for."

And later:

"Indian Head: "Major and Mrs. Bell are on their way to England. It is said the object of the Major's visit is to organize a company of English capitalists for the developing the silver mines at Rabbit Mountain." (Frank: this might be the Rabbit Mine, at Silver Mountain, near Thunder Bay: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silver\\_Mountain\\_Station](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silver_Mountain_Station))

1887 – Jan. 29 – *Edmonton Bulletin*, p.1 – Major Bell off to England re: Rabbit Mountain silver mine

“**TELEGRAPHIC** - Winnipeg, Jan. 27, 1887. Major Bell has gone to England in connection with the development of the Rabbit Mountain silver mine.”

1887 – Feb. 17 – *Qu’Appelle Vidette* (Marg’s transcript)

Indian Head. “Mr. Allan, of the Bell farm, was in town on Saturday and Sunday making arrangements to pay their taxes.”

1887 – March 3 – *Qu’Appelle Progress*, p. 3 (Marg’s transcript) – brickmaking at Qu’Appelle

“A brick yard is among the new industries to be started here in the spring.”

1887 – March – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
233	March 13, 1887	M.F. O’Donoghue	Ottawa, Ontario	

1887 – March 18 – *Manchester Courier & Lancashire General Advertiser*, p. 3 – Emigration to the West – letter from F.G. Jefferson, a Bell Farm employee: comments on severe winter weather and CPR travel problems

**EMIGRATION TO CANADA.**  
 To the Editor of the Manchester Courier.

Sir,—I have read in several Canadian papers that there will be a great flow of emigrants from Manchester and other towns in England to Canada North-West this spring, and from an experience of nearly two years in several rising towns in Manitoba, Canada, I would like to give a few facts of the climate, work, and wages, &c., to my fellow English countrymen, and my friends in Manchester. Agricultural capitalists and farm hands may do well in summer, but in winter they will find the cold unbearable, but I would rather let them feel the winter and judge themselves. Every year many English and Europeans have their toes, feet, hands, fingers, and noses frost-bitten, and several have them amputated in the Winnipeg Hospital. Some advise frost-bitten hands or feet to be soaked in cold water for some time, or rubbed with snow or oil, but the pain is so severe that rubbing is not favourable to the sufferer except in slight cases. I have had several experiences of frost bites from being a farm teamster all this winter, and find King Frost still can get to the fingers or feet while we wear double pair gloves or three pairs of stockings. I feel it my duty to caution parents to be very careful when sending their sons to Canada to learn farming and paying high premiums, because there are many farmers of small means, and their sons will not be very comfortable. It would be best to get places for their sons in the best large farms, where agricultural work is done on the most scientific principles. I am still on the Bell Farm at Indian Head, which is a very large farm of 50,000 acres, of which 6,000 acres will be on crop this year. The following cases will show that many emigrants will have some hardships to undergo. A deaf and dumb young man called on several farmers for employment, and he got work with one at harvest time at \$2 a month, which is 18s. per week, with board, and when winter came he had to leave as there was not much to do, and it was difficult to get work on a farm for the winter, and several offered him his meat only and no wages, which he accepted. He got his feet frozen and

went to the Winnipeg Hospital, and had a narrow escape of having his toe amputated, so as he was a schoolmate, I gave him shelter and food, with several others, out of my own wages which I earned as compositor, for several weeks, till the snow and frost went away, when I got them better situations as sand shovellers on a new railway at \$30 a month, which makes 30s. a week, and as soon as they got their six months' wages they went off to England. This shows there is much responsibility in taking young men into our charge who are not used to hard work, and they did not like the farm work; so it needs strong hearts to stand the roasting heat of summer and the freezing cold of a Manitoban climate. Some of the Winnipeg people are against emigrants of no means coming, and some were thinking of petitioning the Canadian government for a poor law. I feel it my duty to advise the emigrants to be careful of their luggage when getting on the cars of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and demand the rules and conditions when getting their luggage checks, because there are several English emigrants, including myself, who have been unfortunate in losing the whole of our effects and clothes by the fire at the Winnipeg Canadian Pacific Railway depot. The fact is that Mr. Van Hagen, the vice-president of the above railway, will not object to any compensation if Messrs. Atkins and Howell, solicitors of the Winnipeg Branch, are agreeable, but I am sorry to say these two solicitors will do nothing for the English emigrants, who are heavy losers, although we hold their passenger luggage checks. They agree that half an hour is allowed for removal of luggage after arrival, but the Winnipeg City solicitor does not agree to half an hour, but within a reasonable time, as depends upon circumstances. Many of these losers suffered much from the cold through insufficient clothes, and some were treated at the Winnipeg Hospital. In all the pamphlets published by the Canadian Government on "Advice to Emigrants" there is nothing mentioned of only half an hour allowed to emigrants to remove their luggage after arrival, and the Canadian Pacific Railway



Part 1

85 kb

Part 2

92 kb

officials should give the rules as well as their brass passenger luggage checks. I may say it is pleasant in spring, summer, and autumn, and work may be abundant, but in winter it is rather difficult to get employment. Some farmers of much experience may do well at mixed farming. It also needs experience to know how to build a good wood house to stand the winter's severe cold. The compositors still get 35 cents per 1,000 from newspaper to long primer, and 40 cents per 1,000 pica. The night hands got a rise lately from 35 to 37½ cents per 1,000. Labourers on new railway got only 5s. average per day, and joiners and iron men in the railway shops get from 15 cents to 25 cents per hour and are paid monthly. My friends in Manchester will see me in Manchester again in November if all is well.—Yours, &c.,  
**FRANCIS GEO. JEFFERSON,**  
 Indian Head Bell Farm, North West Territory,  
 Canada, March 1, 1887.

Part 3

51 kb

1887 – March 24 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

"Indian Head. Major Bell will be back next week from England."

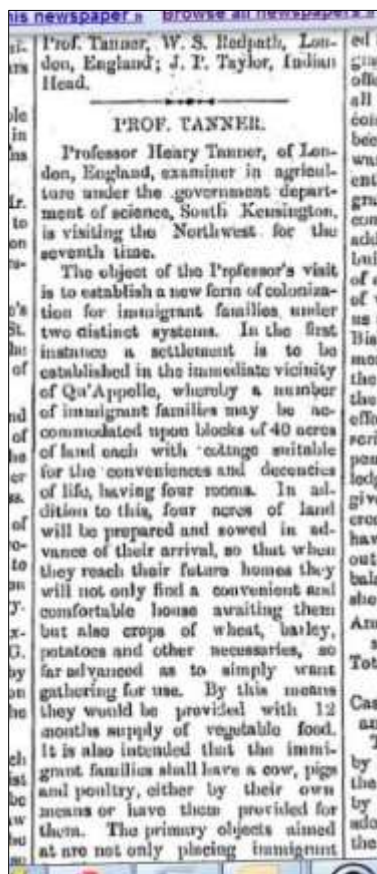
1887- April – *Prince Albert Times*, p. 4. – Merit of growing flax in Saskatchewan

“**AGRICULTURAL – Flax Culture.** – In reply to a question from “H.B.” Prince Albert, asking for information about the culture of flax, the *Nor’-West Farmer*” says: - “The first thing he wants to know is whether flax can be grown here, and if so, to what advantage. It has been grown successfully at Gleichen, but Major Bell at Indian Head, ← could perhaps tell a different story. A slight summer frost would spoil a season’s crop, and though for cattle a patch ought to be cultivated on every farm, it is not so profitable as some people allege. If sown, as it often is, on new breaking, it will grow itself, but it will prevent the soil from rotting properly, and so spoil the land for several crops afterward. . . . .”

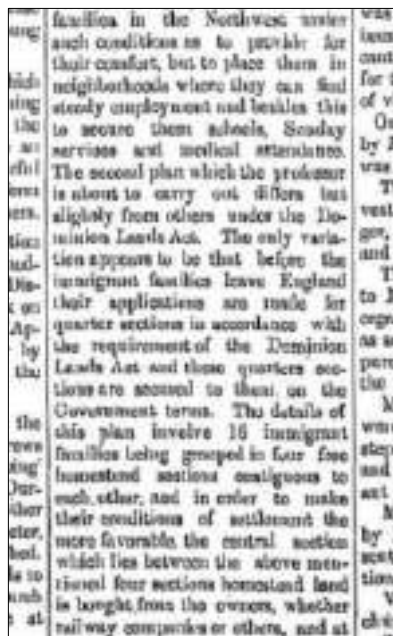
1887 – April 14 - *Qu’Appelle Progress* – Tanner in the NWT for the 7<sup>th</sup> time.

“At the Queens: . . . E.H. Hill, London, Prof. Tanner, W.S. Redpath, London, England; . . . .”

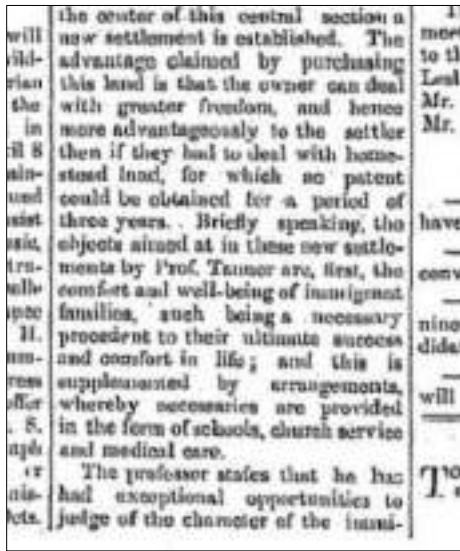
“Professor Tanner is in Town. He is locating a number of immigrants in this vicinity. Particulars in another column.” (see below) E.H. Hill also there.



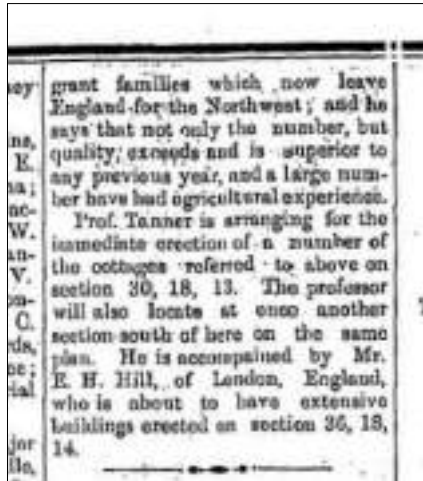
Part 1 115 kb



Part 2 68 kb



Part 3 35 kb



Part 4 46 kb

1887 – April 14 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* – Tanner house construction and Bell Farm director Allan on site

“Prof. Tanner, of England, arrived at Qu’Appelle a few days ago, and has let the contract for a dwelling house, etc., five miles west of here, on the Bell Farm” [\[Frank’s Note\]](#)  
 “west” might be a typo, as the Tanner house was built east of Qu’Appelle.]

And

“ Mr. W.R. Allan, a Bell farm director, paid the village a hasty visit on Tuesday night, returning by the morning train. It is now rumoured that some 4,000 acres will be sown and the arrearages of wages paid at once.”

1887 – April 14 – *Qu’Appelle Vidette* – Tanner’s New Scheme for settlement



A New Scheme.		
<p>Professor Tanner, the well-known agriculturist and promoter of immigration to this country has a new scheme on hand for the promotion of emigration to Manitoba and the Northwest. His intention is to establish a couple of settlements in the Province and Territories, and to keep the settlers near together to farm claims. The arrangement is a new one, the main object being to secure the comfort and well-being of the immigrant families. At the same time the arrangements will be carried out upon a commercial basis so as to do away with all approach to charity, and while doing so secure to the immigrants advantages which have hitherto been very difficult to attain. Two settlements are being organized in each of which arrangements will be made in advance of the arrival of the immigrant families so that a decent cottage with the proper requirements for prosecuting farming operations, etc., on a small scale will be provided.</p> <p>The cottage will consist of four rooms, and will be quite commodious. Each holding will consist of forty acres of land four of which will be placed under crop at once and be ready by the time the immigrants arrive. Two</p>	<p>acres will be sown with wheat, one with oats and the fourth with peas, potatoes, garden vegetables, etc. One colony or settlement will be established in the immediate neighborhood of Qu'Appelle, where it is thought plenty of employments can be secured such as farm laboring, etc. Forty acres will be allotted to each family and the total charges, including the cost of the food supply and the dwelling, will be about equal one day's wage for a week's occupation. They will only be tenants, but will have the option of purchasing the land within a period of some three years if they elect to do so. By the expiration of the three years, if they find forty acres too little, they will be in an excellent position to take up government homesteads. Such settlements, says Prof. Tanner, practically become nurseries for preparing immigrant families with very limited means for adapting themselves to the requirements of the country, and gaining experience, which is likely to be valuable for their further success, and so increasing their stock in proportion for a larger holding.</p>	<p>The second settlement is to be located along the line of the Manitoba Northwestern, at which point has not yet been decided. This settlement will differ from the former one inasmuch as it will consist of a group of persons taking up quarter sections of land, and in such a manner that sixteen of them will occupy four sections of land, and the section which is enclosed by these will be purchased from the owners and divided into 40 acre plots. The same improvements as in the other case will be made. A school, a maternity or village hospital, a church, etc., will be established so as to give the immigrants all the advantages of civilization. Prof. Tanner was accompanied by a large number of immigrant families of a very desirable character. Some of them have capital.</p>

1887 – April 18 – *Winnipeg Free Press*

Reports that William Rae Allan, a Bell Farm Director, visited the Bell Farm; and also that Professor Tanner was in the region and was having a house built about 5 miles west of "the village" (Indian Head) – still within the original Bell Farm boundaries. (Allan was appointed a Director on 19 May 1886, along with other Directors of the newly-incorporated Bell Farm Company: Robert William Bell, William Lewis Boyle, Duncan McArthur, Thomas Howard, Ralph Thomas Rokeby, and Hermann Joseph Eberts)

"Mr. W.R. Allan, a Bell farm director, paid the village a hasty visit on Tuesday night, returning by the morning train. It is now rumoured that some 4,000 acres will be sown and the arrearages of wages paid at once.

Prof. Tanner, of England, arrived at Qu'Appelle a few days ago, and has let the contract for a dwelling house, etc.; five miles west of here, on the Bell Farm."

**1887 – April 21 – Qu'Appelle Progress (Marg's transcript) – brickmaking at Qu'Appelle**

"We learn that brickmaking is to be an accomplished fact here this summer. An excellent variety of clay having been found on Samuel Henry's place about seven miles south of the town. We believe the brick are to be laid down at a price to make brick building quite as cheap as frame and certainly more durable as well as more attractive in appearance. May good fortune attend the venture. Mr. J. Doolittle is the prime mover in this enterprise."

**1887 – April 21 – Qu'Appelle Vidette (Marg's transcript)**

Indian Head. "Major and Mrs. Bell have returned from England."

"Mr. Dunlop, secretary-treasurer of the Bell farm, has returned from Winnipeg and looks none the worse for his trip."

"The Bell farm commenced seeding on Monday with twenty-three teams. They are going to put 5,000 acres under crop. Everything is running smoothly and the Major is happy and sure of a good crop. All hands have been paid up and grumblers are at a loss what to grumble at now."

**1887 – April 28 – Qu'Appelle Vidette (Marg's transcript)**

Indian Head. "The Bell farm will finish seeding this week with an acreage of a little over 5,000."

**1887 – April 28 – Qu'Appelle Progress (Marg's transcript)**

Marg: Sir John Lister Kaye's Farm at Balgonie, 7,000 acres, 15 miles west of Qu'Appelle; Sykes Farm Lands (Edgeley) 20,000 acres. – see below

*Sykes Farm Lands.*—Mr. Sykes, a Manchester merchant, purchased from the Canadian Pacific Railway Land Co. 20,000 acres, all the odd

sections in township 19, ranges 15 and 16. The manager, Mr. Cameron, resides at Edgeley, the headquarters of the farm, 5 miles west and north of Qu'Appelle. Mr. Sykes has a steam plough in use which has been so far a great success. The idea is to break and cultivate a certain number of acres on each of the sections and sell from prices ranging from \$7.00 to \$12.00 per acre. Edgeley district is well worth a visit, for there is situated some of the most flourishing farms in the North West. Mr. Cameron has this year upwards of 1000 acres in crop.

*Webster's Farm.*—Situated 5 miles south of Qu'Appelle, comprises three sections of land, (1920 acres). He is his own manager, and has, considering the past three unfavorable seasons, been very successful.

*Sir John Lyster Kaye's Farm.*—Situated near Dalgona, 15 miles west of the town of Qu'Appelle, comprises 7000 acres. He has large and extensive buildings upon the farm and will have this year 1000 acres in crop.

Other large farms, but on a smaller scale to those mentioned are in this vicinity; all are, if not as prosperous as they expected to be, hopeful of a bright future. The prosperity of the town and its surroundings are assured our hope is that this little pamphlet may be the means of bringing some of those new comers from the old country who are still undecided where to settle in this vast country. They can be assured that should they come to Qu'Appelle every assistance will be rendered in getting them located, and I am sure they would never feel that they were strangers in a strange land.

Also: cottages being built for Professor Tanner:

“Mr. J.H. MacCaul has the contract for building the cottages for the immigrants under Professor Tanner’s scheme. There are also two houses to be built for parties connected with Prof. Tanner, the contracts for which have not yet been awarded.”

And this summary of Tanner’s Settlement:

**“Professor Tanner’s Colonization Settlement.** – Professor H. Tanner, Government Examiner in Agriculture in the Department of Science, South Kensington, London, England, is now engaged in establishing in the immediate vicinity a settlement whereby a number of immigrant families may be accommodated upon blocks of 40 acres of land in comfortable cottages, together with schools, churches and medical attendance. Special care will be taken to secure immigrants of unexceptionable character, and with a practical knowledge of farm life and its requirements. It is hoped, and expected, that this settlement will greatly add to the material growth of Qu’Appelle, and provide a class of steady and efficient agricultural employees.”

1887 – May 7 – *Glasgow Herald* – general comments on the Bell Farm and Professor Tanner’s Agricultural College

Some 150 miles farther on is the disappointed village of Indian Head, best known to English readers as the station for the Bell Farm. Indian Head had expectations at one time, expectations, however, which failed to be realised, and it now wears an aspect of arrested progress which is somewhat melancholy. A large brick building, which was intended for the best hotel in the North-West, is about to be turned into an agricultural school under the superintendence of Professor Tanner. I have already referred to the signal want of appreciation shown towards agricultural education here in every shape and form, and pointed out that the Agricultural College at Guelph, although perfectly equipped with a view to the thorough discharge of its functions, and very moderate in its fees, being liberally endowed by the Government, yet fails to attract a sufficient number of pupils (in the opinion of some) to justify its existence; and in the face of such discouraging experience it seems almost foolhardy to attempt to start another establishment which will not have half the advantages, and must of necessity, being a purely commercial venture, charge three times the fees. The practical work of the course is to be done on the Bell Farm. That is excellent so

far as wheat-raising is concerned, but if there is a dogma of Canadian agriculture it is that mixed farming is always to be preferred to wheat-growing, and for affording experience of mixed farming the Bell Farm, if not exactly useless, cannot for a moment compete with the institution at Guelph. Professor Tanner deserves credit for his enterprise, and nobody wishes him anything but success, but from the point of view of getting the best value for your money it is worth while considering whether it is advisable to patronise a second-rate expensive establishment so long as a corner can be found at a first-rate cheap one. As for the Bell Farm itself, it still enjoys the distinction of being the largest farm in the world. The extent of its fields is bewildering, the array of its implements is amazing, the hugeness of its operations is impressive to a degree. But its profits are chiefly remarkable for their smallness, and the whole affair would seem to demonstrate that farming on a large scale is not necessarily money-making to correspond. A new adjunct is a flour-mill of considerable capacity, where the grain is milled by the "roller process." By this process the nutritious part of the wheat immediately next to the skin, which used to be rejected with the bran, is retained, and the nutritious properties of the flour greatly increased. - The

Part 1 [222 kb](#)

Part 2 [205 kb](#)

superiority of the hard northern wheat for milling purposes is clearly shown by comparing the flour it produces with the finest from Minnesota. The greater whiteness of the former is most marked, and as both are obtained by the same process we are sure that this superiority is not the result of rejecting any part of the grain, but simply due to its harder texture. Manitoba flour now takes rank as the finest in the world, and its supremacy is not attributable to any difference in the milling process, but solely to the superiority of the grain. It is no mere figure of speech to say that Manitoba, and ultimately the North-West as well, will be the world's granary. The proof of the pudding is the eating of it, and the proof of the wheat is its capacity for making good flour. In this capacity the wheat grown here, owing to the joint influence no doubt of soil and climate, is pre-eminent, and as the best articles must always command the market the wheat of North-West Canada will be sought for all the world over. Q.E.D.  
Regina is the capital of Assiniboine. It is a

Part 3 [197 kb](#)

1887 – May 12 – Hattie Liggett, daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth Liggett, died of bronchitis in one of the Bell Farm Cottages. Although some of Bessie Liggett’s account (written in 1956, when Bessie was 75 years old) is based on partially erroneous information, especially that relating to Major Bell’s farming operations, I suspect that her

account of family life was more accurate, likely as she remembered or was told by her parents. The following extract details their life while resident on the Bell Farm from 1886 to 188\_\_\_):

**(PAGE 8)** “. . . . I think it must have been in the spring of 1886 that we moved to the Bell Farm cottage. Though I do not remember the Rebellion of '85, my father, like practically every man in the country was busy in connection with it. There being no railways to the North, where the trouble was, supplies had to be transported by team. Father, like many others, took his ox team and wagon (or sleigh) on “the transport”.

“The Bell Farm” was started by an English man, Major Bell. He bought quantities of land. His idea, evidently, was to transplant a land holding idea from England and carry it out as estates were managed in England. He built a big house - for those days it was quite a mansion. That was his residence and was always spoken of as “The Big House”. The property was dotted with cottages for the farm help. Two cottages and a large barn were in a group – possibly to look after one section. The one in which we lived was situated to the south east of the barn, the other north east of the barn directly north of **(PAGE 9)** ours. These cottages were just off the townsite, to north-west, very near to where the present hospital stands.

I have no idea how many of these groups of cottages Major Bell had but no doubt they were very numerous. He had a foreman Mr. Sherwood, who supervised on horse back. Mrs. Bell had her carriage and pair with her coachman to drive her around. It seems to me it was a double seated (sort of phaeton) vehicle. A any rate she rode in state in the back seat and was popularly (though sarcastically) known as “Lady Bell”. Had she been a different type how well beloved she might have been. Perhaps she was one of those persons who simply do not know how to adjust to a new environment.

I imagine that at first after we went to the Bell Farm everything was quite satisfactory. The cottage consisted of a large kitchen, a living room and two bedrooms. After living in one room, Mother must have appreciated having more space for her family. The farm furnished horses and machinery and paid wages to the men. At first, my parents were able to get along nicely on Father’s wages. However, I was not long until Major Bell got into financial difficulties and wages were not forthcoming. This would have been bad enough under ordinary circumstances, but the winter of 1886-87 Hattie (3 yr. May '87) was very ill. I have heard Mother say the lamp was never out for ten weeks that winter. The trouble was a gathering in the left side – so near the heart that that organ was pushed over to the right side of the chest. The nearest doctor was in Qu’Appelle. He finally lanced it and the quantity of pus that drained from it was almost unbelievable. To the Doctor’s surprise ( he had been afraid that she would die during the lancing) Hattie recovered. Of course she had not walked for weeks and **(PAGE 110)** it was weeks more before she began to learn to walk all over again. Then we all took bronchitis and of course Hattie took it too. She did not have any strength to resist the disease and on May 12, 1887, she passed away. What a dreadfully hard time for our parents! On Father’s wages it would have been difficult to get any dainties for her. But the wages were not forth coming for the barest necessities of life. I remember the little spray Mother made. To this day wild maiden hair fern and lily-of-the-valley remind me of the spray Mother arranged that day.

In a house with five children, one a small baby, and another a very ill little 2-year old, there was certainly an opportunity to show kindness. However, likely Mrs. Bell never thought of it. Under the circumstances she must have known about Hattie's long, long illness. The day after Hattie died Mrs. Bell called and offered to do anything she could. My mother replied: "Thank you, Mrs. Bell, but she doesn't need anything now."

I do not remember so much of what took place during my early childhood as many others do regarding their earlier years. However, here and there incidents seem to be tucked away in my memory. One of these was in connection with the morning when my brother was born. The night before, Annie had been sent to spend the with a friend (Reason quite obvious now). Grandma Boyd (everyone spoke of her so) had been called, and in the morning we were introduced to our new baby brother. Of course, Annie would go directly to school from where she had spent the night. I remember the excitement when Sadie left for school. Somehow we had no way of contacting Annie before school. (Perhaps we were late, as naturally (**PAGE 11**) things would be a bit disorganized at home that morning). At any rate, I remember how slow the time went, and I was fairly bursting to tell Annie the wonderful news, which had o wait for recess.

The new baby was named William Andrew (Willie). Father and Mother (Papa and Mama we called them then). Father and Mother each had a brother, William, and Father's youngest brother was Andrew. What a good baby he was! I do not remember much about him as a baby, of course, but I know we all adored him. I have heard Mother say that with Hattie's long illness, she did not know how she could have managed only that Willie was such a good baby.

By this time a Presbyterian church has been built. It was a stupendous financial venture for so small a congregation. It was a nice little brick building capable of seating 200 or more. The church debt hung over the heads of the members year after year. In fact by the time the property was clear of debt, it was bursting at the seams and a new church was necessary. The new Presbyterian Church was opened in 1906. It is still doing yeoman duty for the United Church of Canada." **Later handwritten note at top of page 11:** *"The Bell Cottage that Dad was born in was the one the people lived in who ran the creamery years ago. Beth."*

1887 – May 19 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* – Death of Hattie Liggett (on Bell Farm)

"The four-year-old daughter of Mr. Liggett died on Saturday evening after a lingering illness of six months> She was buried on Monday."

1887 – May 12 – June 10 – Diary of Sir John Lister-Kaye – proposed amalgamation of the Bell Farm with the Alberta & Assiniboia Land & Coal Co. – [transcripts and comments from Hugh Henry, 2018]

Thursday May 12<sup>th</sup>

See Brydges about Bell Farm, Canada Co., is a successful Land Co.

Saturday May 14<sup>th</sup>

To see Brydges 103 Leadenhall St. about Bell Farm – draw scheme of Amalgamation.

Sunday May 15<sup>th</sup>

Write out amalgamation scheme of Bell Farm & Alberta & Assiniboia Land & Coal Co.  
[*Alberta, etc. Co. did not exist; was Lister Kaye 'scheme'.*]

Monday May 16<sup>th</sup>

See Brydges & leave amalgamation scheme with him, . . . agrees to my scheme. I send papers off to Thomas to print.

Tuesday May 17<sup>th</sup>

Get Amalgamation scheme papers printed clear by evening, send off to various people.

Wednesday May 18<sup>th</sup>

See Renshaw & Brydges about Scheme. Luncheon with Sir G. Warrender, . . . then to Sir G. about Am. Scot. Inv. Co. who hold L30,000 of Bell Farm Debentures.

Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup>

See Davies Cooke, arrange completed plan of Prospectus showing amalgamation of Bell Farm & Alberta & Assiniboia Co's interests.

Monday May 23<sup>rd</sup>

Meeting at 2.00 at Can. Gov. Offices – Mr. Sanford Fleming, Brydges, Renshaw – talk over scheme. To see Thomas about the printed Prospectus, get it at 5.15.

Wednesday May 25<sup>th</sup>

. . . to see Mr. Sanford Fleming, he approves of my plan drawn up & wishes me to eliminate the printed Estimate of concessions value. He will write Sir G. Stephen & Sir D. Smith advocating extension of my agreements & suggesting they should consult as to his coming on Board. Cooke comes, has seen Mortimer (Broker) makes suggestions for Prospectus.

Thursday May 26<sup>th</sup>

See Brydges ask him to write to Mr. Sanford Fleming to suggest that a Director of Bk of Montreal should come on Board so as to make three in Canada & three in England I to make the quorum of four in whichever country I am. He approves and writes.  
See Roger Mortimer at 4.30 – with Cooke, discuss various schemes of financing scheme.

Friday May 27<sup>th</sup>

To Can. Gov. Offices at 12. Mr. S. Fleming, Sir J. Heron Maxwell, Brydges & self – discuss scheme. Mr. S. Fleming approves plan of Director Bk of Montreal coming on Board & will himself write to Montreal suggesting it, he has written already to Sir D. Smith & Sir G. Stephen enclosing Prospectus of Amalgamation of Bell Farm & A. & A. Land & Coal Co. asking approval & necessary extension. [*Extension refers to Lister Kaye application to CPR and Fed. Gov't for land.*]

Saturday May 28<sup>th</sup>

“Finish and send off registered letter to Sir G. Stephen, Sir D. Smith and Hon. T. White Minister of Interior, Ottawa – enclosing amalgamation scheme of Bell Farms & A. & A. Land & Coal Co. – [Assiniboia & Alberta Land & Coal Co.] asking approval and extension necessary to complete.”

Thursday June 2<sup>nd</sup>

See Frith and then Coates 99 Gresham St – bought out Man. Nor. West Bonds & Man. Loan - long talk with Sir John Maxwell there – Frith at 3 oc – they all want to cut out Bell Farm but it won't do.

Friday June 3<sup>rd</sup>

Renshaw at 12 - he does not like shares & does not like cutting out Bell Farm. I go to Frith, clever man, I suggest method of dealing with Bell Farm on basis of value of the other prospectus, we draw up plan – International Financial Society may be useful for scheme.

Saturday June 4<sup>th</sup>

Meet Sir J.H. Maxwell at Renshaw, long talk. Sir J.H.M. decides to come on Board. I see Firth again, I beg(?) discussion have arrived at proper basis for dealing with Bell Farm property.

Sunday June 5<sup>th</sup>

. . . write two letters to Brydges about delaying with Bell Farm.

Tuesday June 7<sup>th</sup>

[Arrive Edinburgh 4.55 a.m.] Brydges arrives 12.30 – We go to see Menzies in afternoon – about the Scottish American Investment Co. – accepting L30,000 in the New Co's [Assiniboia & Alberta ?] Debentures in lieu of the Bell Farm Co's Debts – Do not seem much inclined – See Sir G. Warrender he rather more inclined.

Wednesday June 8<sup>th</sup>

Board of S. A. I. Co.[Scottish American Investment Co.] at 12 – they will not have it – Propose L10,000 cash & L20,000 debentures – See Menzies at 4. oc – no go – but they will accept L25,000 cash for the L30,000 Deb. – I tell him he must place some for us, he will see – See Cowan he will see Menzies.

Thursday June 9<sup>th</sup>

To see Menzies propose that Company [Assiniboia & Alberta ?] shall give L35,000 cash and L16,000 Debentures for the Bell Farm property, no particular arrangement with no particular interest that shall be left to the Scottish Am. Investment Co. to arrange – He agrees and will co-operate with Bell & Cowan in placing Debentures – I see latter, they give me letter to Nathaniel Speers 101 St. Vincent St. Glasgow, on whose advice they depend.

Friday June 10<sup>th</sup>

Go to Glasgow, see N. Speers, talk over scheme for four hours, he draws up finance plan, & will co-operate with Scottish American Investment Co. - & Bell & Cowan in placing Debentures.

*NOTE from Hugh Henry : Lister Kaye goes back to London. Over succeeding ten weeks of diary entries, references are made to shares, debentures, financing, investors and underwriting, but the Bell Farm is not mentioned, specifically, so it is not clear whether they relate to the Bell Farm or Lister Kaye's Balgonie Co. (farm he has initiated already), or formation of the proposed Alberta and Assiniboia Land & Coal Co., or other. It is clear he is having great difficulty in enlisting backers.*

1887 – May 26 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* – Mrs. Bell stays at the Qu'Appelle Valley Hotel, Fort Qu'Appelle.

“The following are among the arrivals at the Qu'Appelle Valley Hotel this week: . . . Mrs. Bell, W.R. Robertson, Indian Head; . . .” (Frank: I presume this is Major Bell's wife, as both she and Mr. Robertson as listed as being Indian Head residents.)

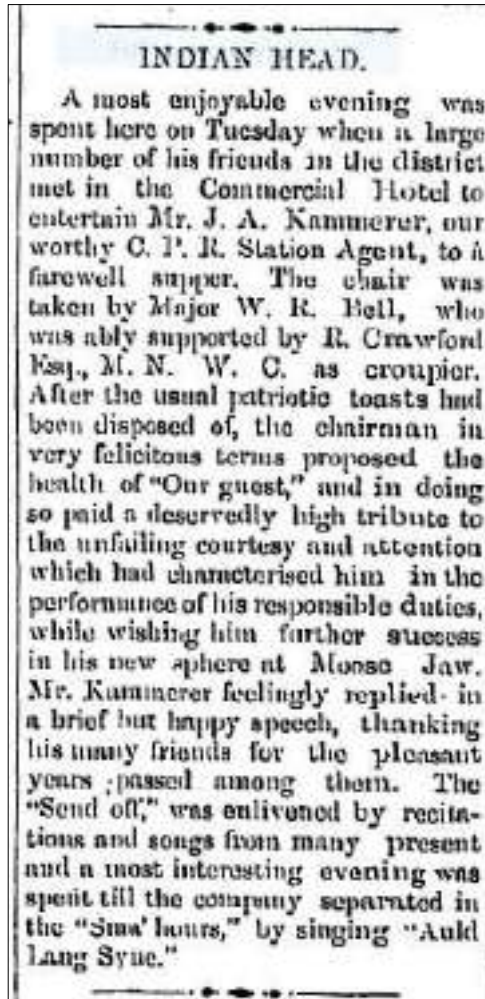


1887 – May 26 - *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 2 – Rev. Trotter to promote Prof. Tanner's Immigration Schemes

p. 2 : "Rev. Cannot Trotter, of Alwick, England, paid this town a visit last week in the interest of the Church of England Emigration Society. He brought out a party of 88 who were located at different points in Manitoba. Canon Trotter was much taken up with the town and surrounding country, and will assist Prof. Tanner's immigration schemes."

ALSO:

1887 – May 26 - *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 2 – Bell hosts party for CPR station agent Kammerer



139 kb

1887 – June 7 – *Regina Leader* – p. 1 – Bell returns from east; 4,500 acres in wheat and oats sown

"Major Bell returned from the east on Saturday."

and

"The Bell Farm has 4,500 acres of wheat and oats."

1887 – June 9 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

Indian Head. "Major Bell has returned home from the east. He won his suit against the Government for \$5,000, balance of transport money." (Frank: this represents part of Bell's NW Rebellion of 1885 Losses claim)

"The Major is delighted with the prospects of abundant harvest on the Bell Farm. Things could not look better."

1887 – June 11 – *Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 4 – Bell Farm sues Government for 1885 costs

"The Bell farm company is suing the government on a petition of right for \$10 a day for their teams during the campaign of '85."

1887 – June 16– *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript)

"Mr. HJ Eberts, formerly of Indian Head, but now of Winnipeg, was in town yesterday."

1887 – June 18 – *Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 4 – Rebellion Losses Claim for Bell and Sinclair

"The Bell farm and Sinclair have secured judgement against the government in the courts for their rebellion claims. Sinclair's claim was \$7,000 and was rejected by Commissioner Jackson."

1887 – 18 June – *Knox College Monthly and Presbyterian Record* – August, 1887 p. 221 & 244 – left Wpg Friday, June 17, 1887 for tour to West Coast – Indian Head on June 18 - report by Rev. R.D. Fraser on use of telephone on Bell Farm

P. 221 - "The beautiful Qu'Appelle district has been entered in the early hours of the morning. . . . Indian Head stands with the edge of the great Bell Farm, said to contain 53,387 acres. It is vert fine to look upon, as I found by a visit to it on my return. It is a grand idea, too, to work a farm by telephone and the idea seems to be tolerably well carried out, but how a few head-men, on good pay, and the great bulk of the assistants engaged merely for the season and then dispensed with, is to be to the benefit of the locality or the country at large is a problem which I cannot solve. . . ."

P. 244 –

Making an early start on Friday, the committee journeyed southward to Indian Head *en route* for the Assiniboine reserve. On our way we saw the celebrated "Bell Farm." We drove through and around five thousand acres of wheat in one block. Should these broad lands fulfil their present promise, there will be a grand sight when the forty self-binders, which they purpose employing, are set to work. At the "Farm" we had a kind reception and a change of horses. Major Bell, of the "Farm," and Mr. Robertson, of Indian Head accompanied us. The settlement which we visited was that of Man-who-took-the-coat. His classic name has faded from our memory; we have given the interpretation, and by it he is very generally known. Mr. McLean is the teacher of the school among the Indians here. These being Sioux, we found them, like their kindred in the settlement visited on the north of the Qu'Appelle, more advanced in the pursuits of agriculture and in general habits of industry than any of the other Indians that we had previously seen. A loaf brought to the door of one of the little cottages at the request of one of our company might have been set without disparaging remark on any table in Ontario. A large field of wheat, cultivated and owned by one of the Indians, was not surpassed by any that we saw, even in the rich and fertile country about Portage la Prairie. We were glad to learn that the people of this tribe are becoming, with their greater prosperity and thrift, more and more domestic in their habits and more disposed to give themselves to the care of their fields and cattle. We cherish the hope that they will soon know and prize the blessing of the Lord which "maketh rich." In the

## 1887 – June – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
234	June 22, 1887	Rev. John J. Cameron, ....	Pickering, Ontario	Possibly part of the Presbyterian delegates tour to their missions in the Regina – Indian Head region.

## 1887 – 25 June – Excerpt from Sir John Lister-Kaye Diary

Saturday June 25<sup>th</sup>

See Brydges at 10.30 – Leman & Praeds about Balgonie L1200 but cannot arrange it.

Note from Hugh Henry: *No further mention of Brydges.*

1887 – June 30 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

Indian Head. "The ministerial delegates appointed by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church to inspect the various Indian reservations adjacent to the Canadian Pacific Railway, east of Regina, reached this point on their tour of inspection, accompanied by Haytor Read, Asst. Indian Commissioner, on Friday morning, coming via

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Fort Qu'Appelle. After doing the Bell Farm they started immediately for the Assiniboine reserve. The following citizens accompanied them from Indian Head: Major Bell . . . “

“The Bell Farm has about one hundred horse plowing. Their 4,500 acres of crop looks immense.”

1887 – June 30 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

Indian Head. “Major Bell is in town.”

“The Bell Farm, under the able management of the Major, has been fairly pushing things, in matters of shipment.”

“The grain shipments from this point have already assumed much larger proportions than any previous year in the history of this town. About 70,000 bushels of fine wheat has already been handled by the CPR.”

1887 – July 5 – *Regina Leader* – Presbyterian delegates visit the Bell Farm and Assiniboine reserve

“The Indians – Crops – Masons: (from our correspondent) Indian Head, June 28 – The delegates appointed by the Presbyterian Assembly to visit the Indian reserves, reached here from Fort Qu'Appelle, accompanied by Hayter Reed, Esq., on Friday forenoon. After taking in the Bell Farm they left for Assiniboine reserve, accompanied by the following citizens from here: Major Bell, W. Robertson, P.M. Dunlop and C.T. Lewis. The drive of twenty miles to the reserve was very exhilarating. All the party seemed delighted with the appearance of the country. The delegates made a thorough inspection of the conditions of the Indians and this reserve under instructor Mr. W.S. Grant, held a long interview with Chief Jack, which was very satisfactory; he seems a most humane and intelligent chief. Expressed sympathy with the work of education, but raised objections to any coercive measures being used with the Indian children. The delegates seemed more than pleased with the evidence of progress that are everywhere apparent.

Crops are simply magnificent. Your correspondent notice one forty-five acre field of whet over twenty inches high. Altogether there are 230 acres of crops growing on this reserve and the Indians are pushing preparations for another year's crop. The delegates are fully convinced that the state of our Indians has ben greatly misrepresented by unreliable writing.

Our new school house is in course of completion. Mr. Cown is pushing the work.”

**Later:** “Major Bell left for Winnipeg on Saturday.”

## 1887 – July – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
235	July 7, 1887	Mabel Lake	“Winmarleigh”, Grenfell	Saskatchewan – probably related to Richard Lake, later Lieut. Gov. of Saskatchewan (see also # 251-253) Mabel Lake was Richard Lake’s sister. See Grenfell local history p 93
236	“	Henrietta A. Phillips	Emerson, Manitoba	
237		Gordon D. Legg	Jamestown, Dakota	United States
238		W.C. Cameron	Edgeley Farm	Saskatchewan Hmmm, according to my information (gathered from Bruce Farrar, Vernon Church historian, whose great great something or other established Vernon Church with Emily Cameron) William C. Cameron was the manager of Edgeley Farm (see Sykes above). His wife was Emily. Bruce thinks that the M is probably his version of a W, and therefore are one and the same.

1887 - July - *The Queen’s Highway From Ocean to Ocean*, by Stuart C. Cumberland, p. 185-186 – Indians helped with Bell Farm harvest in 1886. Toured Bell Farm with Major Bell and H.J. Eberts.

“A good number of Indians frequent Regina for the purpose of barter, but most of them loaf about the place in order to see what they can pick up. There is not much work in the ‘noble red man,’ although the younger generation are showing a disposition to work in the fields; and in the harvesting season many of them are employed on the Bell Farm.”

1887 – 24 Aug. – *Manitoba Free Press* – Baird and Carruthers visit Winnipeg and points west, including the Bell Farm

“Several of the great grain merchants of Eastern Canada are visiting the city [Winnipeg] at present, attracted no doubt by the fame of Manitoba’s harvest. The following are staying at the Queen’s Hotel [Winnipeg]. Mr. Baird, of Crane & Baird, Toronto and Montreal, Mr. Tilly, of W.P. Howland & Co., Toronto; and Mr. Carruthers, of Carruthers & Norris, Toronto and Montreal.”

1887 – 30 Aug. *Manitoba Free Press* – Baird and Carruthers at Bell Farm on Aug. 27

**VISITING WHEAT BUYERS.**

**They did not See a Poor Crop of Wheat—  
A Magnificent Harvest.**

Mr. Baird and Mr. Carruthers, both large wheat buyers in Ontario, have been spending the last week in visiting the Province. Reports of our magnificent wheat crop had reached them even in Toronto, and they determined to take advantage of the holiday season before the fall trade began and see it with their own eyes. They accordingly came, saw and were conquered, and left for home last night great believers in Manitoba as the great wheat country of the world.

They went west as far as Indian Head, Caherry, Brandon, Minnedosa, and Rapid City districts were also visited. Speaking yesterday of their trip they said they never saw such crops in all their experience. At some places there were miles and miles of grain, of the best quality. They did not see any poor grain during their trip, it was all of a uniformly good kind and would grade high. As to the yield they were confident that it would average over twenty five bushels to the acre in all the districts included in their travels.

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They visited the Bell farm, which has five thousand acres in crop this year. The wheat on this farm appeared to be quite equal to that in Manitoba, both in quality and yield. The immense harvest on this farm will be completed next week. To cover so large an area an army of men are engaged.

They say that Manitoba has beaten Ontario out of sight this season. The "premier province" has to take a back seat so far as wheat growing is concerned. The spring wheat crop is almost a failure, while the fall wheat crop will average sixteen bushels to the acre. The yield of oats, however, had been heavy, but the farmers would make very little profit on them this year, as the magnificent oat crops in Russia had led to keen competition from that quarter. As yet the firms represented by these gentlemen have confined their operations to Ontario, but they intend to extend them to the Northwest this fall.

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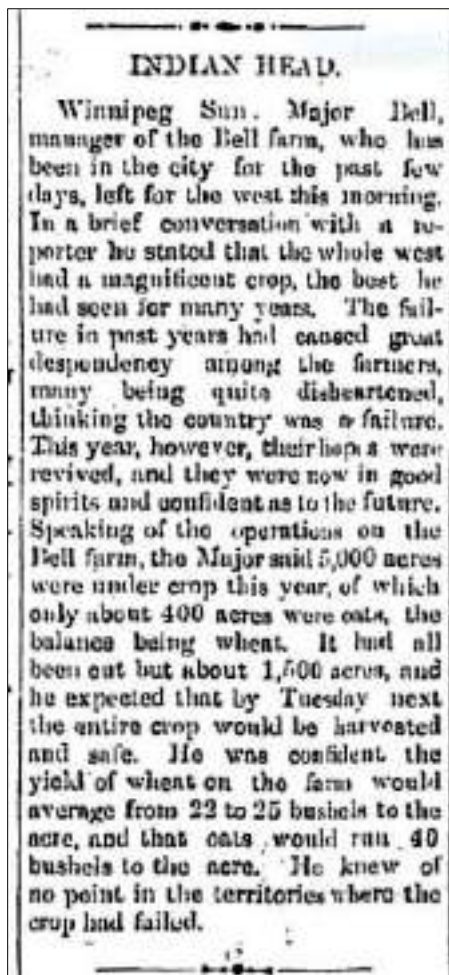
(Note: later on Major Bell did enter into business with Carruthers, as witnessed by the 1888/89 law suit filed by the Major against Norris and Carruthers in the Supreme Court of the North-West Territories: 137/88.)

1887 – August – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
240	August 17, 1887	Ernest Ingersoll, Editor of Publications	Montreal	Quebec Ingersoll worked for the CPR in 1887-88
241	No Entry	No Entry	No Entry	No Entry
242	August 27, 1887	James Carruthers	Toronto, Ontario	Carruthers began his career in the grain export firm owned by H.N. Baird; grain merchant from Montreal and Toronto
243	August 27, 1887	H.N. Baird	Toronto, Ontario	Grain merchant from Montreal and Toronto

244		W.M. Scarth	Winnipeg	Manitoba This might be Wm Scarth, one of the trustees of the Canada North-west Land Company, which sold CPR land. Don't know when it was incorporated. As a trustee, he was listed as living in Ottawa.
245	August 30, 1887	G.C. Alexander	<i>Reigati</i> , Surrey	England
246	August 30, 1887	M.M. Kitto	<i>Claring</i> Cross, London	England – Mabel Mary Kitto
247 a & b		Professor & Mrs. Tanner	London, England	Same as # 69 & 187 (arrived at Qu'Appelle early Aug – Qu'Appelle Progress, 4 Aug. 1887.
248		D. Graton, P.P.	Regina	Saskatchewan – Damian Graton was the Roman Catholic priest at St. Mary's Church, Regina
249		Edgar Dudley, M.R.A.C.	Charmouth, Dorset	England

1887 – Sept. 1 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 1 – Major Bell in Winnipeg, reports on crops



123 kb

1887 – Sept 22 – *Field and Stream*, p. 170 - ref to Rabbit Mountain Silver Mine

The championship collar is a very handsome one, being made from the first silver taken from the Rabid Mountain Silver Mine. It consists of eleven solid silver links, 2in. square, each link engraved with portraits of celebrated dogs, Gladstone being the central one, also Bang Bang, the pointer, and hunting views. It has to be won two years in succession to become the property of the winner. The winner of this collar, Cambria, is no disgrace to her noted grand-sires, old champion Gladstone and champion Thunder, being a fine upstanding bitch, with tremendous speed, going at her game straight, and looking about twice her size when on one of her stylish points. Mr. L. H. Smith, of Strathroy, Ont., who was present, pronounced her one of the grandest bitches he ever saw.



163 kb

1887 – September – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
250	Sept. 9, 1887	<i>Eva S.</i> Bell		Sister to Major W. R. Bell
251	Sept. 16, 1887	<i>Percy G.</i> B. Lake	“Winmarleigh Grange”, Grenfell	Saskatchewan The Grenfell local history makes no mention of
252		Richard S. Lake	“Winmarleigh Grange”, Grenfell	Saskatchewan – later became Lieut. Gov. of Saskatchewan (se
253		Arthur <i>J.</i> Lake	“Winmarleigh Grange”, Grenfell	Saskatchewan Nor Arthur
254	Sept. 17, 1887	H. <i>J.</i> Wilkinson, Major General, United Service Club	Pall Mall, London	England

1887 – Oct. 5 – *Winnipeg Free Press* report on dairy delegation from eastern Canada to the Indian Head Fair and the Bell Farm (identical article in “*Eastern Press*”)

**INDIAN HEAD FAIR.**  
 Weather Delightful, Attendance Good, and a Fine Display of Exhibits.  
 INDIAN HEAD, Oct. 5.—The fourth annual show of the Indian Head and Qu'Appelle Valley Agricultural Society was held here to day and proved a complete success. The weather was delightful, the attendance large, and the exhibits in every department simply astonished the visitors, who freely acknowledged this the best show yet seen in the Territories. There were present peas representatives from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, P. E. Island, Quebec and Ontario. Prof. Saunders is also here. A grand banquet was held this evening in honor of our guests. Mr. Parley, M. P., and Prof. Saunders were the chief speakers. The press representatives and other visitors are now off by a midnight drive to Qu'Appelle, where another show takes place to-morrow.



## 1887 – October – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
255	Oct. 5, 1887	J. Douglas Hazen	Fredericton. N.B.	Sir J Douglas Hazen: Sir Hazen was a Fredericton N.B. alderman at the time of his visit to the Bell Farm and the North-west agricultural convention. Later Hazen became Mayor of Fredericton and then premier of New Brunswick.
256	“	Will. ? Fox	Toronto, Ont.	
257	“	J.J. Stewart	Halifax, N.S.	John James Stewart was the president and managing editor of the <i>Halifax Herald</i> . He visited the Bell Farm on October 5, 1887 as part of a Maritime contingent attending the 1887 NWT Agricultural Convention.
258	“	Jas. Harris, V.S.	Moosomin	Saskatchewan – James Harris was a Veterinary Surgeon who came from Ottawa and provided horses for the Bell Farm in 1883. He also served in the North West Rebellion as veterinarian. He moved to Moosomin in 1882.
259	“	W.D. Perley	Wolseley	Saskatchewan That would be Wm Dell Perley, who arrived to farm and establish a lumberyard in Wolseley in 1882. Elected to the NW Territorial Council in 1885. Elected MP for East Assiniboia in 1887. Became a Senator in 1889
260	“	A.B. Warbutron	Charlottetown, P.E. Island	
261	“	A.B. <i>Mitchen</i>	Fredericton, N.B.	
262	“	M.L. Cotton	Charlottetown, P.E.I.	
263	“	? H. Lynch	Danville, Que.	
264	“	W.B. Alley	Col. Sun, Truro, N.S.	
265	“	J.A. Bell	Chronicle, Halifax, N.S.	
266	“	Howard Trueman	Point <i>de Butte</i> , N.B.	
267	“	J. K. Kammerer	Moose Jaw, NWT	Saskatchewan (J.K. Kammerer was Station Agent at Indian Head at least between 1883 and 1885 – ref. letter written by son of H.J. Eberts. Ca. 1930 – 1950). Promoted to CPR agent at Moose Jaw by 1887. (Alternately listed as “J.A”. in some sources: 1912 Directory of Directors in Canada: J.A. Kemmerer, Huston’s

				Standard Publications, p. 132 , President, Standard Loan Company, Toronto.)
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## 1887 – Supreme Court of the NWT – Law Suits

SAB File	Microfiche Box Reference	District Court / Supreme Court of NWT	Conflicting Parties	Year(s)	Comments
1180	F 14	SCNWT 98/87	The Bell Farming Company Vs. T.W. Jackson	1882-1888	
1238	P 14	SCNWT 125/87	A.J. Osment Vs. S. Campkin	1887-1889	

1887 – Oct. 13 – *Qu’Appelle Vidette* (Marg’s transcript)

Indian Head. Indian Head Agricultural show prize list. Bell Farming Co. wins first prize in the Heavy Draught Stallion category, and first or second in most of the other horse categories.

## 1887 – November – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
268	Nov. 23	Lawrence Vankoughnet	Ottawa, Ont.	Lawrence Vankoughnet was the Deputy of the Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, Ottawa 1874-1893.

1887 – Nov 22 - *Qu’Appelle Vidette* – check for details1887- Nov. 29 – *Regina Leader* – p. 1 – Bell Farm to be divided and sold

“It is understood that the Bell Farm is to be divided and sold to homesteaders. Already several thousand acres have been so disposed of. Farming on a gigantic scale is found to be a doubtful success.”

1887 – Dec. 6 – *Regina Leader*, p. 1 – Insinger (former Bell Farm employee)

p. 1 - “Mr. R. Insinger leaves by early morning train for Amsterdam.”

1887 – Dec. 8– *Qu’Appelle Progress* (Marg’s transcript) – check for details

Marg: Indian Head and Qu’Appelle Valley Agricultural Society annual meeting; president Major Bell, 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president Motherwell, 1<sup>st</sup> vice-president, Peter Ferguson. One of the directors, T. Skinner.

1887 – Dec. 15 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript) – [check for details](#)

Indian Head. Marg: Indian Head and Qu'Appelle Valley Agriculture Society hold s 4<sup>th</sup> annual general meeting. Those attending include. Motherwell, Jos Glenn, Maj Bell, Thomas Skinner. Officers elected include Major Bell, president; and second vice-president Motherwell.

1887 – Dec. 17 – *Ottawa Daily Citizen*, p. 4 – Bell in Ottawa en route to New York

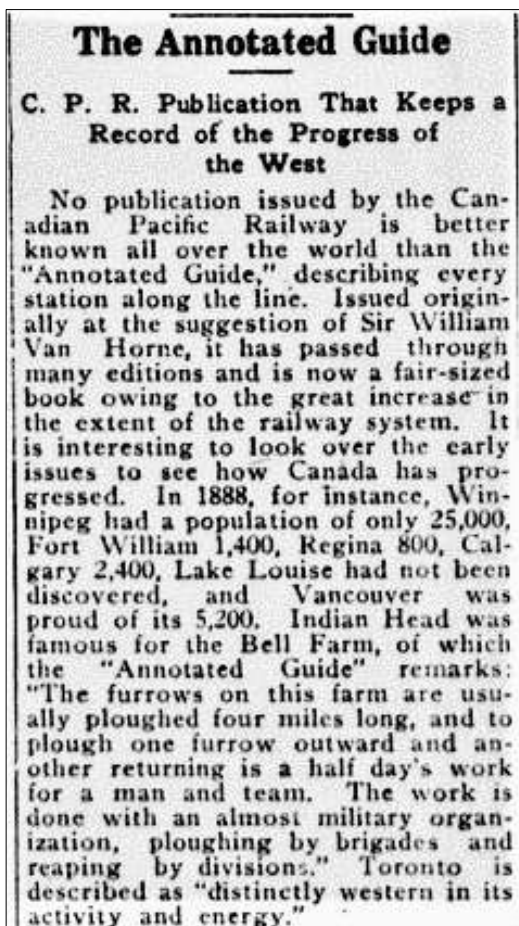
“Major Bell, owner of the Bell farm at Indian Head, is in the city en route to New York, to make arrangements for the shipment of his grain via Brockville.”

# 1888

1888 – Sale of part of the Bell Farm to create the federal government's Dominion Experimental Farm

1888 - Agreement between R.B. Angus and the Bell Farm Company – [check for details](#)

1888 – Annotated Guide for CPR (as reported in *Blairmore Enterprise*, 12 Jan. 1917, p. 6; and at least four other Alberta newspapers: *Bellevue Times*, *Empress Express*, *Chinook Advance*, *Bassano Mail*, )



106 kb

1888 - Jan 1 – RM of Indian Head Minutes – Major Bell appointed Chairman of the RM Council, and a member of the Finance Committee.

1888  
January 1<sup>st</sup> Council called to order by Clerk.  
After the councillors had presented their declarations of office they proceeded to elect a chairman.  
Moved by Coun. Ferguson sec by Coun. Davis that Major Bell be chairman for the year 1888 - Carried.  
The chairman then appointed Couns Kirkland Ferguson & Brooks a special committee to appoint the standing committees of the year. Special committee report advising the appointment of the following:  
Finance Committee Couns Bell, Ferguson & Brooks  
Road & Bridge " " Ferguson, Kirkland & Davis  
Charity etc " " Sanderson, Ewert & Davis  
Moved by Kirkland & Ferguson that report be adopted - Carried.

200 kb

(Source: Glenbow Archives: Series 4: M-6531-20: Legal Documents: 1887-1890)

1888 – Jan. 26 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* - Major Bell elected Chair of R.M. Council (Marg Hryniuk's transcript)

"Indian Head. The Major returned from the east on Monday morning, the 16<sup>th</sup> inst. . . The new Indian Head Municipal Council met on Monday and took the oath of office. Their first business was the election of Major Bell to the chair, the appointment of Mr. D. McLane, auditor, and Mr. GP Murray, treasurer."

1888 – Jan. 26 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 2 – Prof. Tanner's Report and Major Bell on Municipal Council

Professor Tanner's Report:

**SUCCESSFUL EMIGRATION  
UNDER THE CHURCH COLONIZATION  
LAND SOCIETY.**

Professor Tanner sends us a copy of his report on Christ church Settlement in the Canadian North West:

I desire to take the earliest opportunity, on my return from the Canadian N. W. for presenting to the Council of the Church Colonization Land Society a report upon their settlement at Christ church near Qu'Appelle. I am pleased to be able to state that that settlement is a success, whether determined by the prosperity of the emigrant families located upon it, or by the commercial advantages thereby arising to the society. This settlement has been organized upon a plan which distinguished in this society reports as plan No. 1, and its distinguishing features consisted in providing as the unit of settlement a group of 12 houses each having its 40 acres of land, and reserving at the centre of the settlement 160 acres of land, upon which glebe land for assisting the permanent support of a clergyman could be provided, and upon which a village centre could be developed with school accommodation, to be followed by a church, and also a cottage hospital, stores, etc. It was estimated that the cost of the 12 houses would amount to \$2,000 and that the return from the investment would be about 5% per annum. It is also indicated that if this group of 12

were regulated as the central position of the settlement, considerable economy and numerous additional advantageous would arise from two wings being added to the settlement, whereby 16 additional houses could be formed and the percentage upon the investment would be thereby further increased. I am now in a position to report that the estimates have been tested upon the central position of the settlement and that the income arising from the expenditure is higher than was anticipated, being above 6%. The expenditure upon the six 40 acre farms has not exceeded \$1,000, and these are occupied by good emigrant families under safe agreements and they are producing an income of over \$72 per annum. If from this income the cost of local superintendence be deducted, a net return of over 6% can be permanently relied upon. As soon as the remainder of the centre of the settlement has been completed a still more satisfactory income can be secured. It must also be stated that the investment has been made upon freehold land, which is annually increasing in value.

But whilst this commercial success has been secured, the welfare and prosperity of the emigrant families have been equally provided for, and they represent as happy and successful emigrants as any in Canada. On the day following their

Part 1

Part 2

arrival at Qu'Appelle, they removed into their homes between three and four miles distant from the railway station and on the second day the men and boys very generally entered upon work in the immediate neighborhood, the men getting from \$1.50 (6s. 3d.) to \$2 (8s. 4d.) daily wages. It soon became evident that instead of taking all their wages in cash, they could exchange it advantageously with employers for pigs, poultry, or even a cow thereby rendering their skill as farm workmen equal to so much cash capital. Each family also received from the society three acres of wheat and one acre of potatoes and other roots for table use equal to their requirements for a full year, and this was included within the advantages secured to them by a monthly rental of \$5 (about 20s.). It is worthy of note that the additional cost to each family for having such a home and 40 acres of land located in a neighbourhood where there was plenty of employment, as compared with free land many miles away from such employment, did not amount to one shilling weekly, whilst they gained from 36s. to 48s. weekly by being located near to employment. After a stay of about six weeks in Qu'Ap-

Part 3

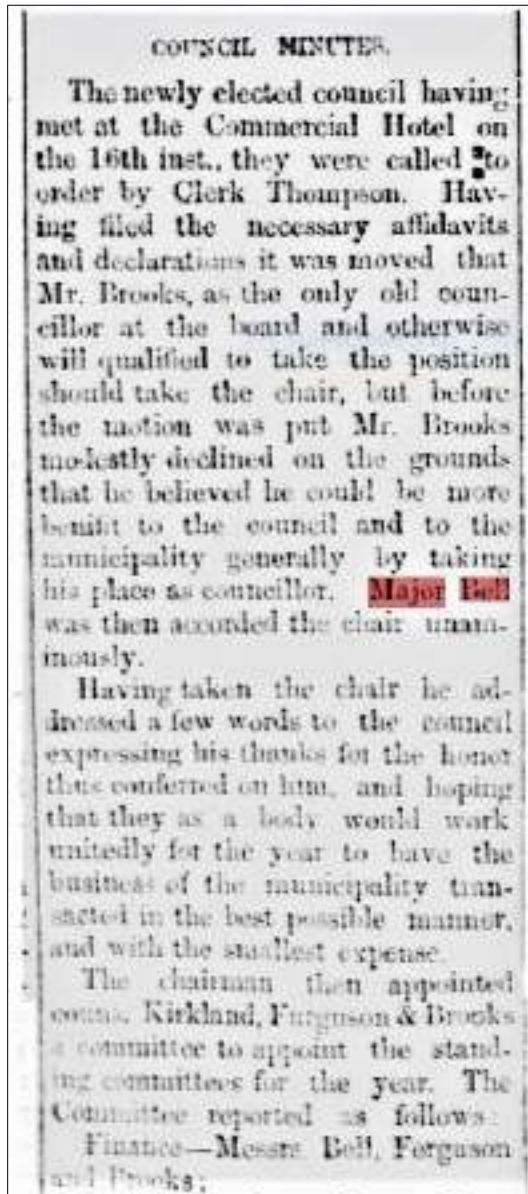
15 pelle, I left the several families upon the Christchurch settlement, contented, happy and prosperous anxious for their friends in England to be able to be located near them under equally favourable conditions. Before concluding this report it will be desirable for me to add that the success which has attended the Christchurch Settlement must not lead anyone to suppose that the thousand and one difficulties associated with emigration can be provided for under this or any one system. It is enough to recognize the fact that meets the requirements of very many of our best emigrant families, that it gives them facilities for removing themselves from conditions of trial and difficulty in England into happiness and prosperity in Canada, that the expenditure by which it is accomplished may be made a thoroughly safe investment, producing good interest, and that, at the same time, the establishment of Church centres may thus be carried out in Canada under conditions which are favourable for their permanent success.

H. TANNER, M.R.A.C., F.C.S.

Note by the secretary:—The second settlement of the society (plan No. 2) is at Churchbridge on the Manitoba and N. W. Railway, where operations have been carried on upon a larger scale on free grant lands the loans to settlers being secured, with interest, by mortgages under the Dominion Land Act, 1886-87.

Part 4

Major Bell, chairman of Rural Municipal Council:



← 144 kb

1888 – Jan. 29 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

"Indian Head. The Major returned from the east on Monday morning, the 16<sup>th</sup> inst. . . The new Indian Head Municipal Council met on Monday and took the oath of office. Their first business was the election of Major Bell to the chair, the appointment of Mr. D. McLane, auditor, and Mr. GP Murray, treasurer."

1888 – Feb. 18 – Edmonton Bulletin, p. 1 – Establishment of the Experimental Farm on Bell Farm lands

"The government has decided to locate the government experimental farm of the North West on the C.P.R., about one mile from Indian Head on the Bell farm. Operations will be commenced at once."

1888 – Feb. 21 – Montreal Daily Herald, p. 1 – Bell in Ottawa to discuss railway development

“Major Bell has been to Ottawa in connection with the Inland Manitoba and Western Railway project. This involves building a line from Port Arthur to Moosomin, touching at Portage La Prairie and Brandon, branching off to Turtle Mountain, connecting with the Duluth and iron range and embracing the purchase of the Red River Valley. Assistance from the Dominion and Manitoba Governments will be asked. Major Bell believes the Dominion Government has decided to offer no further opposition to the Red River Valley Railway.”

1888 – Feb. 22 – *Calgary Weekly Herald*, p. 3 – Part of Bell Farm to be new Experimental Farm

**REGINA'S "BRANCH."**

The idea that anything could be located elsewhere than at Regina has produced little surprise outside the magnificent brick city by the majestic Wascana. It seems the government has reached a conclusion in the matter of a site for the Territorial Experimental Farm, and has selected a section on the Bell Farm, and on the C. P. R., about a mile from Indian Head. The Hon. Mr. Carling's message to the astonished Reginaans conveying this dire intelligence has proved a veritable bomb all the more dynamic as the last in the world to dare to make a pretension proving an Indian Header. There is however, one crumb of consolation in the reflection that Regina is to have a "branch"—though the Hon. John Carling, with that curiosity peculiar to cabinet ministers, has not yet said so. The Hon. Mr. Dewdney has not left Regina yet, but he will, and then comes the great awakening. The forecasting of ordinary events are of little moment in newspaper life but there is not a shadow of doubt that there are more things in Heaven and earth than are dreamed of today in the present philosophy of the Horatios of the Prairie Capital.

55 kb



1888 – Feb. 23 – *Brandon Mail*, p. 2 – Part of Bell Farm selected for Experimental Farm

“**PROVINCIAL.** The Government has selected a section on the Bell Farm, about a mile from Indian Head, for the Territorial experimental farm.”

1888 – March 10 – *Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 1 – House of Commons debates: Major Bell’s involvement with railways

“March 2 - . . . In the House to-day the petition of the Manitoba North-Western railway to be allowed to construct only twenty miles a year was read and received. The time for receiving private bills was extended to March 24<sup>th</sup>.

The conference arranged for between the federal and Manitoba governments is exciting considerable interest here. The opinion is general that disallowance is at an end. There is no talk about Major Bell’s proposed line entering into the discussion at all and it is probable that the conference will be limited to the Red River Valley line. . . .

March 7 - . . . . People here think Manitoba an the North-West are bound to have sufficient railways as so many people interested in new roads are to be seen around the parliament buildings. Major Bell, Hugh Sutherland, Col. Scobie, and T.W. Jackson are actively looking after their respective interests.”

1888 – March 15 – *Qu’Appelle Vidette* (Marg’s transcript)

“Indian Head. . . The Bell Farm is being broken up. Some time ago, the directors sent word to discharge all the men employed on the farm and that they would no longer be responsible for their wages. The Commercial Bank, which is a large creditor, took action and seized the implements, steamers etc. It is likely that the mortgages will split up the once-famous place into small farms.”

1888 – March 29 – *Victoria Daily Colonist*, page 3:

<http://archive.org/stream/dailycolonist18880329uvic/18880329#page/n3/mode/1up/search/indian+head>

“**Gone to Smash.** The great Bell Farm at Indian Head, N.W.T., is broken up. Some time ago the directors sent word to discharge all the men employed on the farm and they would no longer be responsible for their wages. The Commercial Bank, which is the large creditor, took action and seized the implements, steamers, etc. It is likely that the mortgagees will split up the once famous place into small farms.”

1888 – April 3- *Regina Leader* – p. 4 – To Seed 2,000 Acres on leased land

“**The Bell Farm** A Winnipeg paper says Major Bell has leased the unsold portion of the Bell Farm from the company for this season and will put in a crop. Two thousand acres were ploughed last fall and will be seeded so soon as the frost is out.”

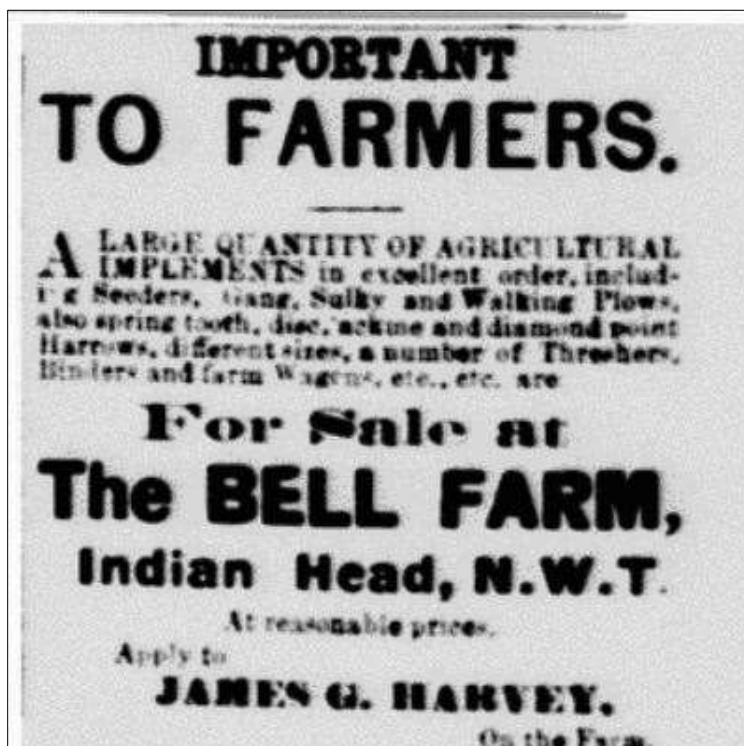
1888 – April 5– *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript)

“The sheriff's sale of the stock and effects of the Bell Farm, which was advertised to be held on Monday last, was indefinitely postponed until it was decided whether the sheriff had the legal right to sell under the executions that had been obtained.”

1888 – April 7 – *Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 4 – Major Bell leases land

“Major Bell has leased the unsold portions of the Bell Farm and will put in a crop this spring.”

1888 – April 26, May 3, 10, 24, 31, June 7, 14, 21, 28, July 5, 12, 19 – *Brandon Mail* – advertisement for sale of Bell Farm agricultural implements by James G. Harvey, a Bell Farm employee since 1885



43 kb

1888 – May 9 – *Calgary Weekly Herald*, p. 6 – Major Bell plants 1000 acres of grain

“REGINA - Mr. A.W. Daggs, who has been at Indian Head for some days, says Major Bell put in 1000 acres of grain last week , and is putting in another thousand.”

1888 – May 10– *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 4 (Marg's transcript) Bell and Flour Mill

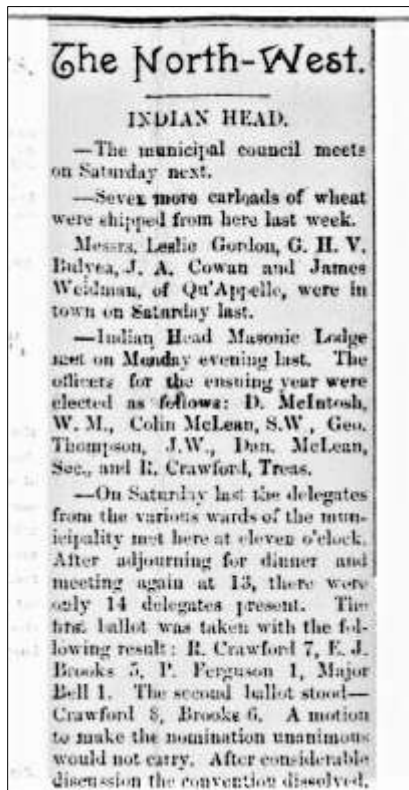
“**Indian Head.** . . . The Bell Farm Co. have seeded about 2,000 acres this spring. . . . Major Bell has been doing some fine shooting lately. His rifle speaks and down comes the bird. . . . A petition is being circulated for signatures among the ratepayers for presentation to the municipal council asking that a bylaw be submitted to a vote of the electors for the purpose of granting a bonus to secure the operation of the flouring mill. It will likely be presented to the council at the meeting on Saturday.”

[Marg: Bell and nominations for the northwest council, copied. It must be noted that the editor of the *Qu'Appelle Progress* is a raging prohibitionist; a member of the Royal Templars of Temperance. His "Home and Gossip" column is liberally sprinkled with "Vote for GS Davidson" and, in the June 28,1888 issue, he reprints the letter he had Davidson sign that he would oppose the "license of intoxicating liquors in the territories." After Davidson wins the election, the editor writes a long column about the "soreheads of Indian Head."]

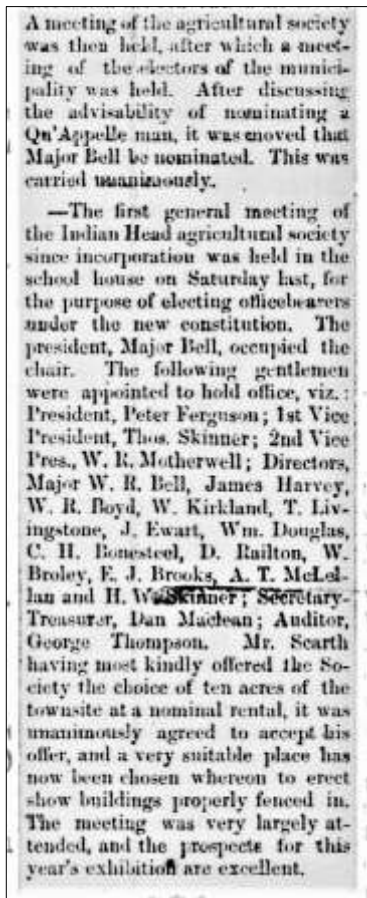
1888 – May 31 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 1

"The brick hotel is advertised for sale or rent."

1888 – 7 June – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 1 – Bell and Indian Head Agr Society meeting



327 kb



347 kb

1888 – June 7 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 2 – Bell vs Davidson in upcoming South Qu'Appelle election.

### THIS OR THAT.

The present aspect of the election contest in South Qu'Appelle seems to indicate an inability on the part of the electorate as a body to arise above sectionalism. First a meeting was held in this municipality for the purpose of uniting on a candidate. A decision was arrived at, but the union apparently effected was not cordial. The disaffected looked to the east for further developments. Spurred on by the example of the west, the residents of Indian Head municipality hold several meetings and in convention are unable to agree. Failing to nominate a man from their own municipality, at a subsequent meeting the advisability of nominating a western man was proposed, but was not received with very much favor, and **Major Bell** was then put into the field. Before this final decision was arrived at there was a hope that a sufficient number of the electors of both the east and west might be induced to rise above sectional feeling and select a man with a view of promoting the common welfare of the electoral district as a whole. The action of the eastern people has dispelled that hope, and we now find the east arrayed against the west. It is not a question of Prohibition or license or any other well defined principle of public polity, but which

of the two municipalities is numerically the greater. This is really an undesirable state of affairs, but it is apparently unavoidable. The posters calling the meeting at Qu'Appelle were so worded as to include the whole electoral district, and there were a few present from the Indian Head municipality, but as a whole the east refused to act with those of the west. There is nothing, therefore, for the west to do but to concentrate their forces upon their candidate as they appear to be doing in the east. This municipality has the advantage in every way. It is numerically stronger and Mr. G. S. Davidson is a much more desirable candidate than **Major Bell**. Mr. Davidson is an energetic public spirited citizen, who, if elected, will undoubtedly exert himself for the benefit of the electoral district. **Major Bell** is an energetic citizen also, but the general opinion is that he would exert himself more for his own personal benefit than that of the district. It is the duty of the electors to choose between the two. Mr. Davidson's supporters should organize themselves, and be thoroughly prepared to poll every possible vote. It will not be wise to be over confident. Every vote counts.

1888 – 7 June – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 4 – Bell and upcoming election

“**HOME & GOSSIP – Qu'Appelle** - The latest reports from Indian Head go to show that the eastern electors are uniting almost to a man on Major Bell. They care not apparently for the character of the man they vote for, but are determined that an Indian Head man shall be elected if possible. They are already working hard to rally their forces around their man, and promise visions of court house, county town, etc. Let Qu'Appelle people take a leaf out of their book.

1888 – June 7 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 4 – Letter by Asa M. McLane to the Editor about Bell Farm taxes

**Correspondence.**

*To the Editor of The Progress,*

SIR: At the convention held at Indian Head, on Saturday, June 2nd, for the purpose of bringing out a man from the eastern portion of the district, to represent them at the coming election, Major Bell was chosen as the standard bearer, thereby placing him before the electors of the district as a candidate for the Northwest Assembly. Therefore it will not be out of place to refer to some matters that affect the resident rate-payers throughout the district in connection with Major Bell and the company he has or does represent, and consider whether it would be advisable to elect a man holding the position and interest in any land company that Major Bell does, to the Northwest Assembly, to frame and enact the ordinances under which our institutions are erected and conducted.

A portion of the **Bell Farm** is situate in the Municipality of South Qu'Appelle, viz, Section 1-18-14, 12-18-14, 24-18-14, 12-19-14, 13-

19-14, and S. 1, 24-19-14. These the Bell Farming Company admit ownership of and appropriate them to their own use and benefit. The taxes recorded in the books of the municipality of South Qu'Appelle for the past four years against these lands amount to a total of \$435.65 of which amount not one dollar has been paid. The Company not having any chattels upon the lands, are placed in the happy position of being able to defy the collection of these taxes by the usual method of seizure and sale. And while the municipal ordinances of the Territories provides that taxes are a debt due the municipality as well as a lien upon the land and may be collected through the courts in the ordinary way, still a difficulty arises in the shape of gigantic chattel mortgages on stock, crops and furniture, so that if recovery of these taxes were attempted through the courts the probability is that the municipality would have to contend with a company that really does not represent anything except these sections of land for which they do not pay the taxes charged against them.

78 kb

98 kb

Although provision is made in the Northwest ordinance for the sale of lands for taxes, there has not been a sale of land for taxes as yet; why there has not been nobody seems to know. The result is that the resident settler who has chattels in his possession within the municipality and upon the lands assessed, has had and will still have to pony up the taxes for municipal improvements and educational purposes while the companies lands are being equally advanced in value with the land of the residents, in consequence of said improvements, until such times as the members of the Northwest Assembly enact such laws and bring about such changes and provisions as will force all lands in arrears for taxes held by either land companies, non-residents, or speculators, upon the market to satisfy taxes justly recorded against them. These necessary changes will be a long time coming about if we send men like Major Bell or any other man whose direct interest it is to leave these matters still as they are.

89 kb

This is only one instance, there are other land companies and land holders in a similar position in both municipalities in this electoral district. There are recorded in the sheriff's office taxes due the municipality of South Qu'Appelle to the amount of \$9093.48, the **Bell Farm** taxes being a part of the same, and there must also be a large sum due the Indian Head municipality. The benefits that must accrue to non-rate-payers as well as to ratepayers throughout the entire district from an equitable rate being collected upon all land entitled to pay the same, must be apparent to all. As it will reduce the rates required and also furnish money for local improvements thereby helping the pioneer settler to struggle through the hardships incidental to all new countries. With all respect for Major Bell's ability and apologizing for the length for the length of this letter I am yours respectively,

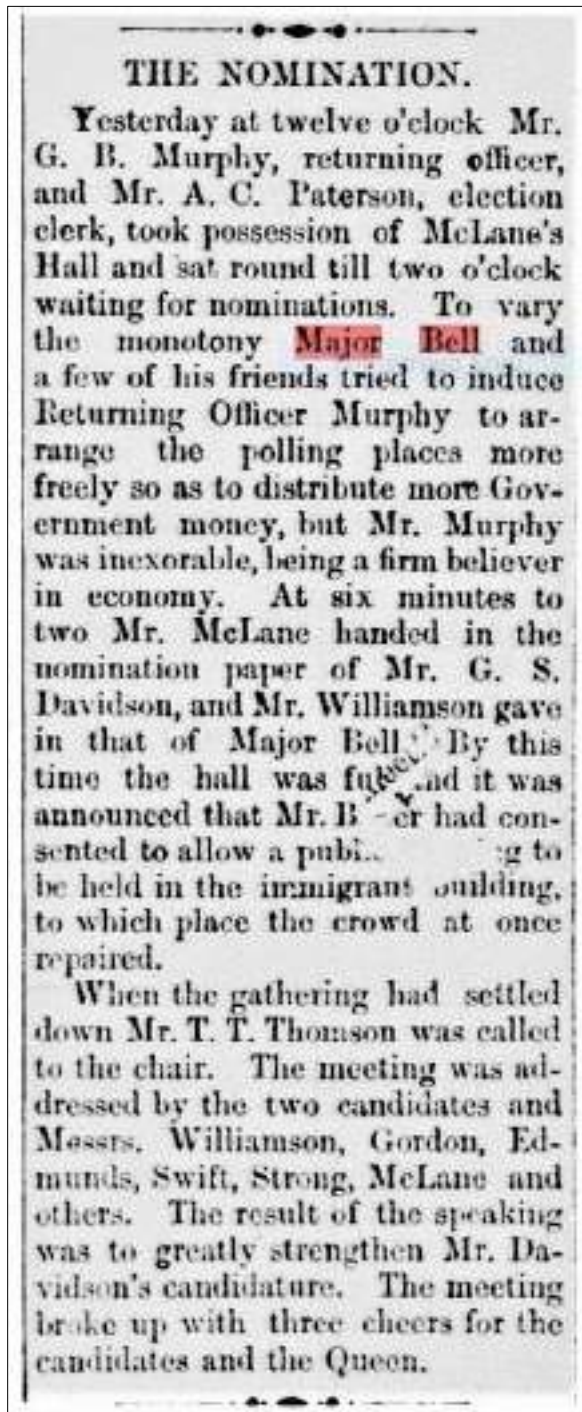
ASA M. McLANE,  
Qu'Appelle, June 4, 1888.

83 kb

1888 – June 21 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 2 – Bell vs Davidson on Prohibition Law

**“NOTES AND COMMENTS** - The Prohibitionist has a choice between Major Bell and Mr. G.S. Davidson. While neither of them is a total abstainer, still Mr. Davidson favours retaining the present law until changed by a vote of the people, and Major Bell advocates a beer licence. Mr. Davidson's declarations on the platform are more in accordance with the views of the Prohibitionist than are those of Major Bell.”

1888 – 21 June – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 4 – Bell and Davidson Nomination for the upcoming election



169 kb

1888 – June 21 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 2 – Nomination Editorial – Bell vs Davidson

**THE NOMINATIONS.**

Yesterday the nominations for South Qu'Appelle were held here and Major Bell and Mr. G. S. Davidson nominated. At two o'clock a large number of the electors had gathered and an important meeting was held. The two candidates delivered excellent addresses and were well received, but some of the other speakers were too personal in their remarks. Charges were made against Mr. Davidson which were most emphatically denied by him, but those making them did not adduce the first particle of proof, which inability greatly raised him in the estimation of every unprejudiced man present. Major Bell, who could never have obtained a following but for the sectionalism engendered by the action of Indian Head, had the effrontery to stand up and deplore the sectional feeling that has entered in the contest. He did not, however, tell the meeting how he obtained the nomination as Indian Head's forlorn hope, and how the eastern electors are rallied around him by glowing visions of court house and jail and other

county town will 'o the wisps. An effort was made to fasten the onus of starting the sectionalism upon the people of Qu'Appelle, but it broke down completely on the production of the notice calling the meeting at which Mr. Davidson was brought out as a candidate. Altogether the meeting was a great triumph for Mr. Davidson. As a result the people of the west have become thoroughly united in the determination to meet the dog-in-the-manger attitude of the people of Indian Head, and elect a man who will work for the best interests of the district as a whole and not for any portion in particular. A strong committee has been formed and complete organization is being effected in order that every available vote may be polled. From the manner in which our leading men have got down to work we look for the triumphant return of Mr. G. S. Davidson at the head of the poll on Wednesday next.

357kb & 315 kb

1888 – June 21 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 4 – Editorial comment on value of the Bell Farm to the region

**WE WONDER**

—Why it don't rain some more ?  
 —How the gophers like this wet weather ?  
 —Which end of the district the Major thinks he fed ?  
 —Are the people of Indian Head like sheep that run after the heels of the shepherd that feeds them ?  
 —How the people of Indian Head like to be told by the gallant (?) Major that he has fed them for the last five years ?  
 —If the people of Indian Head would not have been better fed during the last five years if they had been surrounded by industrious farmers instead of the **Bell farm** ?

58 kb



1888 – June 28 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

"Indian Head:" Regular meeting of the municipal council held. Petition to submit a by-law for raising funds to build a public hall. "A committee consisting of Major Bell, E.J. Brooks, W. Kirkland and P. Ferguson, was appointed to see after the drafting of a by-law and other preliminaries."

1888 – July 12 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

"Indian Head" No matter where you look, "magnificent crops." Will exceed 10-fold last year's harvest – if not taken by frost. "Major Bell undoubtedly made a good stroke in cultivating 2,000 acres of land this year. He has one field of wheat, consisting of 640 acres, which looks like perfection. The crops all through look magnificent."

1888 – July 19 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

"Indian Head . . . Crop prospects could not be more formidable than today. Major Bell says his big 2,000 acre wheat fields are too good for anything."

1888 – July 19 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript)

"Crop prospects could not be more favorable than they now are. Major Bell says his big 2,000 acre wheat fields are 'too grand for anything.'"

1888 – July 19 – *Brandon Mail*, p. 2 – Advertisement by W. Johnston, Brandon - for Bell Farm machinery sale



**Bell Farm Machinery.**

I have received all the immense stock of Machinery off this farm consisting of --

**Steam Threshing Machines,**  
**American Dearing Binders,**  
**Brantford Binders,**  
**Rakes,**  
**Sowers,**  
**Sulkey Plows,**  
**Seeders, Wagons,**  
**gang Plows,**  
**spring Tooth Harrows,**  
**Acme Harrows,**  
**Dish Harrows,**  
**Iron Harrows, &c**

All of which will be sold at

**Rock Bottom Prices.**

121 kb

Also the PATTERSON NEW STEEL BINDER,  
**New Moodle Thresher,**  
**Joseph Hall Thresher,**  
**The Decker and Standard Threshers,**  
**Wood and Straw Burning Engines.**

**THE**  
**LARGEST**  
 and most  
**Complete**  
**Stock of**  
**MACHINERY**  
 in the  
**Province.**

Do not fail to See my Stock before getting any kinds of Implements,

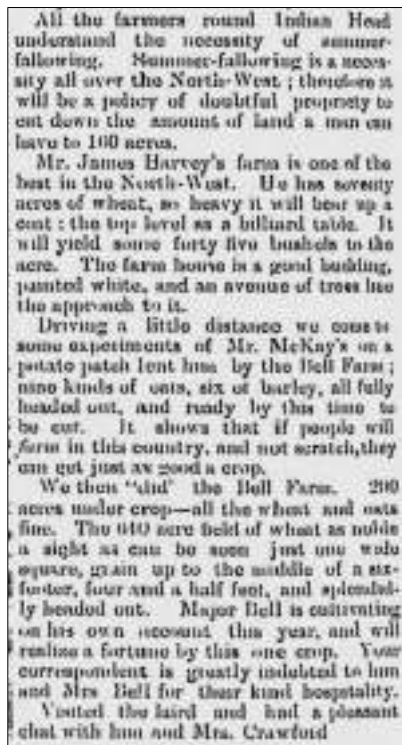
**W. JOHNSTON,**  
 9th Street - Brandon.

123 kb

1888 – Aug. 7 – *Regina Leader*, p. 4 – Account of Tour (Exp. Farm details omitted) – James Harvey is another former Bell Farm employee



32 kb



64 kb

1888 – Aug. 14 – *Regina Leader*, p. 2 – Crop report on the Bell Farm and region – excellent.

“The Bell Farm. Two thousand acres are under crop and all in the best condition. It is a sight to look as far as eye can reach over a square mile of wheat waving to the breeze under the weight of full, rich heads, and just turning colour. Everything on the farm looks exceedingly fine, as in fact do all the crops visited.”

1888 – Aug. 14 – *Regina Leader*, p. 4 – Bell Farm crop report – flourishing.

“Major Bell called on us on Thursday. He reports the crops at Indian Head as flourishing.”

1888 – Aug. 16 – *Qu’Appelle Progress* – Major Bell & Eberts in Qu’Appelle

“At the Leland (Hotel): . . . Miss Eberts . . . H.J. Eberts . . . Major Bell, Indian Head . . .”

## 1888 – August – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
269	August 21, 1888	M. Bowell	Ottawa, Ontario	Probably Mackenzie Bowell, later Prime Minister of Canada (1894-96)
270	“	James Johnson	“	
271	“	Richard Dobell	Quebec	Probably: Richard Reid Dobell
272	“	W.M. Dobell	“	William Molson Dobell
273	“	C.M. Dobell	“	Charles McPherson Dobell

## 1888 – September – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
274	Sept. 4, 1888	Wm. Sherwood	Brockville, Ont.	
275	“	Sarah J. Sherwood	“	

## 1888 – Supreme Court of the NWT – Law Suits

SAB File	Microfiche Box Reference	District Court / Supreme Court of NWT	Conflicting Parties	Year(s)	Comments
1293	J 15	SCNWT 22/88	Crawford & Robertson Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888, 1890, 1901	
1295	J 15	SCNWT 24/88	The Commercial Bank of Manitoba Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888	Get info on this bank – never heard of it
1300	K 15	SCNWT 29/88	Crawford & Robinson Vs. Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company	1886-1888	
1301	K 15	SCNWT 30/88	A.J. Osment Vs.	1888	

			Bell Farming Company Limited		
1302	K 15	SCNWT 31/88	S.W. Caswell Vs. Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company	1888	
1303	L 15	SCNWT 32/88	Van Allan Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888	
1308	L 15	SCNWT 37/88	J.D. Sibbald & Company Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888	Flour & feed sales, implement dealers in Regina
1327	P 15	SCNWT 56/88	Van Allan & Ajur Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888	
1335	B 16	SCNWT 65/88	R.W. Sherwood Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888-1901	
1336	B 16	SCNWT 66/88	W.J. Harrop Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888-1889	
1337	B 16	SCNWT 67/88	J.W. Moody Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888	
1338	B 16	SCNWT 68/88	T. Galbraith Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888-1889, 1901	
1339	C 16	SCNWT 69/88	W. Dixon Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888	
1340	C 16	SCNWT 70/88	G. Smith Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888	
1341	C 16	SCNWT 71/88	J.B. Swift Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888-1889; 1901	

1342	C 16	SCNWT 72/88	J. Thompson Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888	
1343	C 16	SCNWT 73/88	W.E. Hall Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888	
1344	C 16	SCNWT 74/88	C. Hall Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888	
1345	D 16	SCNWT 75/88	W. Ingram Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888	
1346	D 16	SCNWT 76/88	S. Ingram Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888	
1347	D 16	SCNWT 77/88	E. Ingram Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888	
1348	D 16	SCNWT 78/88	E.R. Hawkins Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888	
1349	D 16	SCNWT 79/88	J. Hodgkinson Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888	
1350	D 16	SCNWT 80/88	J. Sanderson Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888	
1351	E 16	SCNWT 81/88	S. Will Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888	
1352	E 16	SCNWT 82/88	T. Cutt Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888	
1353	E 16	SCNWT 83/88	R. Thompson Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888	

1354	E 16	SCNWT 84/88	J. Maguire Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888	
1355	E 16	SCNWT 85/88	J. Ligget Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888	
1356	E 16	SCNWT 86/88	W. Harrop Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888	
1361	F 16	SCNWT 92/88	W.R. Bell Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888-1889, 1902	Bell suing Bell Farm
1372	H 16	SCNWT 103/88	R. Wilson Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888	
1373	H 16	SCNWT 104/88	W. Jeans Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888	
1375	I 16	SCNWT 106/88	M. Seddon Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888	
1396	L 16	SCNWT 127/88	A. Harris Son & Company Vs. Bell Farming Co. Limited & W.R. Bell	1887-1888	Probably the equipment dealership
1406	N 16	SCNWT 137/88	W.R. Bell Vs. Norris & Carruthers	1888-1889	
1407	N 16	SCNWT 138/88	M. Dale Vs. B. Tanner & H. Tanner	1888	Benjamin Tanner and probably Henry Tanner of Bell and Brassey Farm fame
1429	C 17	SCNWT 160/88	J.W. Moody Vs. W.R. Bell, T. Howard, F.H. Bridges, W.R. Allan, W.L. Boyle, R.T. Rokely, F.W. Stobart	1888-1889	
1467	I 17	SCNWT 559/88	Commercial Bank of Manitoba Vs.	1888-1889, 1895	

			Bell Farming Company Limited		
1468	I 17	SCNWT 560/88	A.J. Osment Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888	

1888 – Sept. 4 – *Regina Leader* – p. 4 - Harvest Underway : [Indian Head farming information – Sioux Indians camped on Bell Farm to help with the harvest – \(see post car following article.\)](#)

**“INDIAN HEAD: Hay Crop. Professor Saunders.** (from our own correspondent)

Mr. J.A. Kammerer is in town today. Work on the buildings on the Experimental Farm have begun. Major Bell, who has the contract for supplying the stone for the foundations, has already delivered a large quantity. Most of the grain grown by Mr. McKay on the farm has been cut, the Russian wheat ripening much earlier than other kinds.

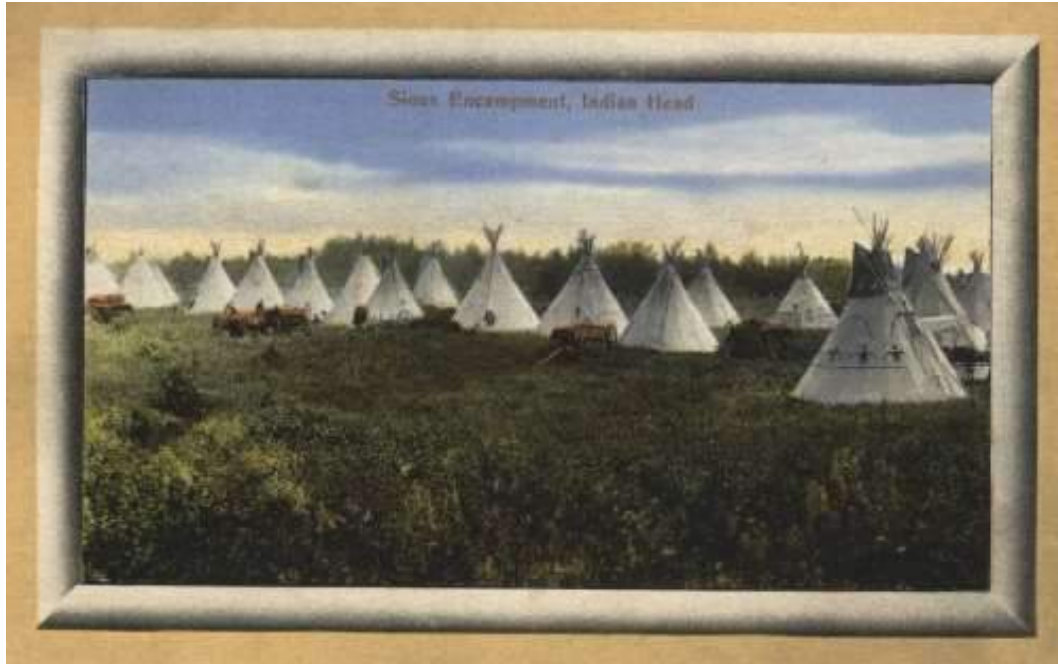
Professor Saunders. During his recent visit, expressed himself as highly pleased with the harvest prospects and the future of the country in general. And well pleased with the appearance of the many kinds of \_\_\_\_\_ planted on the Experimental Farm and expressed his pleasure at the amount of work done and the results attained.

During their stay Mr. McKay drove Professor and Mrs. Saunders out to the Indian Reserve and also to the “Mission”. The splendid appearance of the grain and vegetables on the reserve gave great pleasure to the visitors, the quality of both equalling that of their white neighbours. The work done on the reserve by the Indians deserves special praise and reflects great credit to Agent. W.S. Grant, for the care and attention he had given those placed under his charge.

Major Bell has commenced harvest operations and has a large band of Sioux Indians encamped on his farm, to assist him in harvest work.

The splendid weather of the past week has brought the wheat on, so that cutting will be in full swing tomorrow. Most of the barley is already in stack.

The hay crop this year has been fairly good on the whole, also the yield of potatoes promises to be very large, so that the farmers have some cause of thankfulness, so that all around there is no part of their harvest but what promises to be a success.”



142 kb

Postcard of a Sioux Encampment near Indian Head (no date – possibly 1892-1917)

1888 – Sept. 11 – *Regina Leader*- p. 1 – Crop Report - Harvest Not Completed

“**INDIAN HEAD.** Major Bell has 900 acres cut; he is in great humour, the crops cutting up much heavier than was expected.

Harvesting is progressing very fast, the great bulk already being cut.”

1888 – Sept. 13 – *Qu’Appelle Progress*”, p. 1 – Major Bell’s wheat crop

“**INDIAN HEAD:** - Major Bell is about through cutting his wheat. It will be a heavy yield.”

1888 – Sept 24 - Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, report on workers from Standing Buffalo Reserve at Bell and Lister Kaye Farms

“SIR, - I have the honor to submit my annual report for the year ended 30th June, 1889.

MUSCOWPETUNG AGENCY. The next point, reached was Muscowpetung Agency, Mr. J.B. Lash agent, and Mr. Halpin clerk; arriving there on the 24<sup>th</sup> September. . . The first reserve inspected by me was "Standing Buffalo's," Sioux, No. 78; area, 7.5 square miles; population, 200. The houses were clean and tidy; most of the Indians were absent, working on the Bell Farm and for Sir John Lister Kaye.”

1888 – Sept. 25 – *Regina Leader*, p. 5 – 2,000 Acres of grain cut ←

“Major Bell has finished cutting grain, the number of acres being 2,000.”



1888 – Oct. 2 – *Regina Leader* – report on harvest conditions at Indian Head; and Major Bell’s flour mill

“**INDIAN HEAD** – Good Prospects – The prospects for our farmers are getting even better than they were, for not only have they splendid crops, but they will be in a good position to dispose of them to the best advantage as there will be a good market here. There will at least be three grain buyers here this season: The Keewatin Milling Co., - The Manitoba Milling and Brewing Co., and an Ontario firm. The question “will the mill be running?” still is asked. Should it be, the trade of the town will be greatly benefited, as well as the farmers.”

1888 – Oct. 11 – *Qu’Appelle Vidette* (Marg’s transcript)

“Indian Head Show. The Indian Head and Qu’Appelle Valley Agricultural Society’s show was held at Indian Head on Friday, the 5<sup>th</sup> inst. The exhibits of cereals, dairy products, vegetables and ladies work were shown in the brick Bell Farm building, and the livestock on the prairie to the west of town.” Compliments Angus McKay on the exhibit from the Experimental Farm. Also compliments “the Indians” for their fine show of vegetables and cereals.

1888 – Oct. 19 – *Qu’Appelle Progress* (Marg’s transcript)

**Marg: Mention of the Bell Farm elevator capacity of 40,000 bushels.**

“It will take Major Bell some six weeks to finish threshing his immense crop which has been sold to the Ogilvie Milling Company at \$1 per bushel, so report says. The major thinks he will have over 60,000 bushels of A1 wheat, some of it threshing out 40 bushels to the acres and other farmers reporting the same yield.”

1888 – Oct. 23 – *Regina Leader* – Bell Farm crop report; new elevator being built.

“**INDIAN HEAD. WHEAT.** Major Bell shipped four cars of wheat on Saturday.”

*And*

“The new elevator is nearing completion and will be a great boon to our farmers.” **[Question: Bell or some other owner?]**

1888 – Oct. 31 – Annual Report 1887-88, Office of the Indian Commissioner – hiring Indian farm workers

Annual Report 1887-88, Office of the Indian Commissioner, Regina

“The general advancement in the methods of civilization has rendered possible the inauguration of a new policy which is being pursued. I refer to that of substituting Indian labor, to some extent, for that of whites, in connection with the agencies and reserves. This policy will be susceptible of gradual development. Indians, too, have been encouraged, when it could be done without detriment to the work of their own reserves, to hire themselves out to the farmers, and much of the harvesting for example, on the

Bell Farm - has been done by workers thus obtained as many as sixty Indians having been at work at one time."

1888 – Nov. 2 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript)

"Major Bell is now putting wheat in his elevator at the rate of 2,000 bushels per day. Expects to ship a train load early next week."

1888 – Nov. 23 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript)

"Threshing will be completed on the Bell Farm in two weeks. Well done Major."

1888 – Nov. \_\_\_ - *Regina Leader*, \_\_\_\_\_ - Major Bell participated in first Assiniboia (Regina) Rifle Association Match – as reported in Nov. 30, 1933 edition, p. 4 - [- check for details](#)

The first annual competition of the Regina Rifle association took place, the first-prize winners being as follows: Association match, W. J. Chaffey; lieutenant-governor's match, J. R. Wynne; members' match, Major Bell; ladies' match, Mrs. D. Mowat; citizen's match, Major D. Mowat; consolation match, Dr. Willoughby.

1888 – Nov 30

"Major Bell and wife are in the city on their way to England" Nov 30 1908- "Twenty Years Ago" Winnipeg Tribune

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1633&dat=18881207&id=YJ06AAAIBAJ&sjid=OyoMAAAAIBAJ&pg=1003,4179197> Dec 7 1888

Dec 19 1888 *Colonies and India*

Major Bell, of the Bell Farm, is on the way to England. It is said that he proposes to organize a stock company to take over the farm. Two thousand acres only were under cultivation this year out of a total of about 12,000. The crop was abundant, and rumour has it that the profits this year, owing to the high price of grain, were considerable but this requires verification.

1888 – Dec 4 – *Regina Leader* - Major and Mrs. Bell travel to Winnipeg and England.

"**INDIAN HEAD:** Major and Mrs. Bell left on Thursday, for Winnipeg and after a short stay there they will proceed to England."

1888 – Dec. 7 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 1 - Bell elevator; threshing, trip to England; Presbyterian Church

“INDIAN HEAD. From our own correspondent.

- The Bell Farm elevator is stopped running for a few days owing to the boiler undergoing repairs.
- Threshing is completed on the Bell Farm. Major and Mrs. Bell are gone on a visit to the Old Country for the winter.”

1888 – Dec. 14 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p.1 – Party for Councillor Kirkland

“On the evening of the 28<sup>th</sup> a very enjoyable send off was given to Councillor Kirkland who started for England on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Supper was provided in first class style by Mr. W.R. Boyd. The chair was filled by Major Bell and the vice chair by Mr. McKay. The usual loyal toasts were duly honoured in addition to that of the guest of the evening which was received with much enthusiasm.”

1888 – Dec. 21 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 1 – report on Elevator boiler repairs

“**INDIAN HEAD** - The repair on the boiler of the Bell Farm elevator is completed and will be running to-morrow.”

# 1889

1889 – Jan. 3 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

“Indian Head . . . The nominations at Indian Head resulted in the election by acclamation of the following gentlemen as councilors for the current year: . . . “ included A.J. Osment.

1889 – Jan. 4 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript)

(Marg: wrong date on paper, stroked out and corrected in pencil): “Indian Head” Nomination for municipal councilors by acclamation include new member A.J. Osment

1889 – Feb. 19 – *Regina Leader*, p. 4 – Operations of Bell Farm Company closed by Justice A.C. Killam of the Manitoba Court of Queen’s Bench.

“**MANITOBA MATTERS. Winding Up the Bell Farm** - Winnipeg, Feb. 16. Mr. Justice Killam has granted an order for the winding up of the Bell Farm company on the application of the Scottish Investment Co., who are holders of 150 shares in the company of \$1,000 each.”

1889 – March \_\_\_\_ - *Regina Leader*, P. \_\_\_\_ - Major Bell visits Regina (re reported in March 31, 1939 issue, p. 4”

“Major Bell of Indian Head was a visitor in the capital during the weekend.”

1889 - March 4 - *Winnipeg Free Press*

"Major Bell, of the Bell Farm, has just returned from a prolonged European trip. He spent considerable time in Paris and leading cities on the continent."

1889 – April – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
276	April 13, 1889	W. ?????	Edinburgh	Scotland
277	“	??? Percival <i>Nilupies</i>	<i>Canaan</i> House, Edinburgh	Scotland
278	“	Euphemia Forrest-Clay	Chicago	Illinois, USA : <i>Wife of John Clay</i>

1889 – April 26 – *Qu’Appelle Progress* (Marg’s transcript)

“Indian Head.” Marg: Account of Gabriel Dumont (who “tips the scale at 230 lbs”) and four “half-breeds” stopping at Indian Head on their way from Batoche to Montana, where they planned to collect 40 half breeds and 20 Indians who took part in the Rebellion, including Big Bear’s son. Will all proceed to France via New York to attend the world’s fair in Paris. Not surprisingly, there’s no mention of stopping at the Bell farm.

1889 – June 11 – *Regina Leader*, p. 4 – Report of major farming initiatives, including the Bell Farm

**NORTH-WEST PIONEERS.**

**Nobility on the Prairie—Some Whitewood Settlers—An Ex-lled Author.**

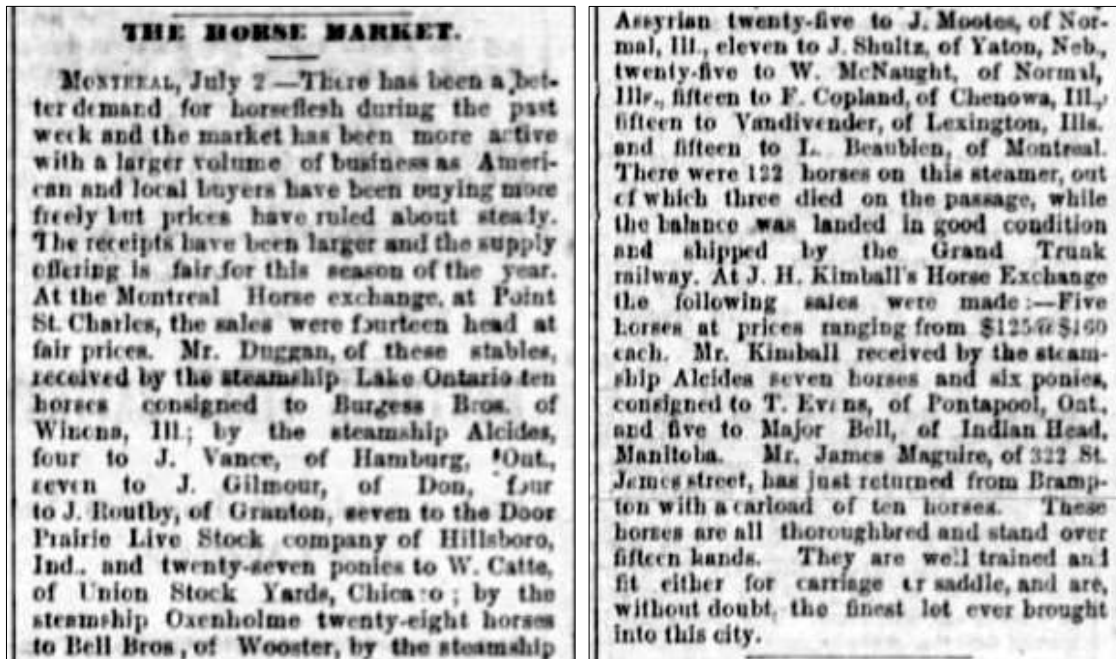
*(From Harpers Weekly, June 1).*

There is a very remarkable bit of this continent just north of our Territory of Dakota, in what the Canadians call Assiniboia, one of the North-West provinces. Here the prairie reaches away in an almost unbroken plane, like a brown ocean of grass. Here are some wonderful and some very peculiar phases of immigration and of human endeavour. Here is Major Bell's farm of nearly one hundred square miles, famous as the Bell Farm. Here Lady Cathcart, of England, has mercifully established a colony of Crofters, rescued from poverty and oppression. Here Count Esterhazy has been experimenting with a large number of Hungarians, who form a colony that would do better if those foreigners were not all together, with only each other to imitate—and to commiserate. But stranger than all these, here is a little band of distinguished Europeans, partly noble and scholarly, gathered together in as lonely a spot as could be found short of the Rockies, or the far Northern regions of this continent. These gentlemen are Dr. Rudolph Meyer, of Berlin, the Comte de Cazes and the Comte de Raffignac of France, and M. Le Bidau de St.-Mars, of that country also. They form in all probability the most distinguished and aristocratic little band of immigrants and farmers in the New World.

Seventeen hundred miles from Montreal, in a vast prairie where settlers

1889 – June 23 - *Winnipeg Tribune* - Ovington entered for the one mile Novelty Running (same as Bill's clipping) – [get copy of article](#)

1889 – July 3 – *Montreal Gazette* – Major Bell in Montreal to buy horses from Kimball's Horse Exchange



46 kb

54 kb

1889 – June 6 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

“Indian Head . . . The public will be interested in the announcement of the fact that it is now reliably reported that the large area of valuable lands held here heretofore by the Bell Farm company is to be opened up for sale to actual settlers. It is reported on good authority that Major Bell has purchased 31,000 acres of these most valuable lands, situated in the finest district in the Territories and all within a few miles of the railway station. Terms will be made known forthwith, and it is to be hoped the lands will be settled up in a short time by good, pushing farmers and not fall into the hands of speculators.”

1889 – July 11 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

“Indian Head . . . Major Bell returned from the east on Saturday and his mares arrived on Sunday. There are five thoroughbred Clydesdales mares, the stallion and one mare having been killed during a severe storm.”

1889 – July 23 – *Regina Leader*, p. 8 – Major Bell places second at Assiniboia Rifle Assoc. Shoot

**ASSA, PROV. RIFLE ASS'N.**

The weekly telegraphic match took place on Saturday against Lethbridge, when the following scores were made, which are very creditable considering the strong gusty wind that was blowing. —

	200	400	500	Total
Major D. Mowat	29	26	24	79
Major Bell	20	25	17	72
H. A. Carruthers	28	18	24	70
A. E. Forget	20	27	19	66
R. Sweet	24	28	14	66
J. T. Stemahorn	25	19	19	63
S. Varder	24	18	18	60
R. J. Steel	21	16	8	45

Regina's total score was 521, against 592 made by Lethbridge.

We were very pleased to see Major Bell on the range on Saturday and hope he will try and make it convenient to be with us often.

Steps are about to be taken to get the Dominion grant, usually given to Provincial Rifle Associations. The steady practice and energy displayed by our men, should secure the same for this association with little delay.

The highest average for Sec.-Treas. Jowett's silver medal, stand as following D. Mowat 73, R. Sweet 69, H. A. Carruthers 67, S. Varder 63, Hayter Reed 62; this medal will be given as second prize, should any person kindly present a gold one for first prize.

There is some talk of sending a team to Winnipeg, for the annual prize shooting, in August, but I question if our boys with only one year's practice should go. I think they had better wait till next year.

H. A. Carruthers is acting Sec.-Treas. during Mr. Jowett's absence.

1889 – July 25 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (published in Fort Qu'Appelle) (Marg's transcript)

Under "Local News: "Major W.R. Bell of Indian Head was in town yesterday."

1889 – July 30 – *Regina Leader*, p. 5: "Over the Prairie" – far left column – report on poor crops on the Bell Farm.

"Most of the crops from Brandon west to Moosomin, with exceptional districts are poor. The crops between Moosomin and Indian Head, when I saw them, now three weeks ago, were also poor, excepting where the farmers have done their work well. From Indian Head to Regina the farmers are doing their work in rather a poor way. But at Indian Head Mt. McKay has some splendid grain; where well cultivated the crops look well – this is particularly the case at the

Experimental Farm and the farm formerly owned by the McKay Farming Company. The Bell Farm shows up to poor advantage this year. *A great deal of grain has been sown there on stubble land, and it, without exception, is very poor.* I saw a number of eastern farmers who were so discouraged after seeing Mr. Bell's crops that they have gone back home again without buying. *This is a case where the fault rests entirely with the farming;* for wherever the grain was sown on summer fallowed land the crops are great.

"In the Qu'Appelle Valley the land is not as good as at Indian Head, owing to a light sub-soil; in the valley the grain is generally poor, although there are some splendid farmers there, particularly in the Bonny castle settlement. . . . ."

## 1889 – Supreme Court of the NWT – Law Suits

SAB File	Microfiche Box Reference	District Court / Supreme Court of NWT	Conflicting Parties	Year(s)	Comments
1488	L 17	SCNWT 14/89	R. Bell Vs. W. Brown	1888-1889	Not sure if R. Bell is W.R. Bell or someone else
1506	P 17	SCNWT 37/89	R.W. Sherwood Vs. W.R. Bell, T. Howard, W.R. Allan, F.H. Brydges, F.W. Stobart, R.I. Rokeby, F. Storer Brown	1889	
1507	P 17	SCNWT 38/89	W.J. Harrop Vs. W.R. Bell, T. Howard, W.R. Allan, F.H. Brydges, F.W. Stobart, R.I. Rokeby, F. Storer Brown	1889	
1508	P 17	SCNWT 39/89	T. Galbraith Vs. W.R. Bell, T. Howard, W.R. Allan, F.H. Brydges, F.W. Stobart, R.I. Rokeby, F. Storer Brown	1889	
1509	P 17	SCNWT 40/89	W. Dixon Vs. W.R. Bell, T. Howard, W.R. Allan, F.H. Brydges, F.W. Stobart, R.I. Rokeby, F. Storer Brown	1889	



1510	P 17	SCNWT 41/89	G. Smith Vs. W.R. Bell, T. Howard, W.R. Allan, F.H. Brydges, F.W. Stobart, R.I. R okeby, F. Storer Brown	1889	
1511	B 18	SCNWT 42/89	J.B. Swift Vs. W.R. Bell, T. Howard, W.R. Allan, F.H. Brydges, F.W. Stobart, R.I. Rokeby, F. Storer Brown	1889	
1512	B 18	SCNWT 43/89	J. Thompson Vs. W.R. Bell, T. Howard, W.R. Allan, F.H. Brydges, F.W. Stobart, R.I. Rokeby, F. Storer Brown	1889	
1513	B 18	SCNWT 44/89	W.E. Hall Vs. W.R. Bell, T. Howard, W.R. Allan, F.H. Brydges, F.W. Stobart, R.I. Rokeby, F. Storer Brown	1889	
1514	B 18	SCNWT 45/89	C. Hall Vs. W.R. Bell, T. Howard, W.R. Allan, F.H. Brydges, F.W. Stobart, R.I. Rokeby, F. Storer Brown	1889	
1515	B 18	SCNWT 46/89	W. Ingram Vs. W.R. Bell, T. Howard, W.R. Allan, F.H. Brydges, F.W. Stobart, R.I. Rokeby, F. Storer Brown	1889	
1516	B 18	SCNWT 47/89	S. Ingram Vs. W.R. Bell, T. Howard, W.R. Allan, F.H. Brydges, F.W. Stobart, R.I. Rokeby, F. Storer Brown	1889	
1517	C 18	SCNWT 48/89	E. Ingram Vs. W.R. Bell, T. Howard, W.R. Allan, F.H. Brydges, F.W. Stobart, R.I. Rokeby, F. Storer Brown	1889	

1518	C 18	SCNWT 49/89	E.R. Hawkins Vs. W.R. Bell, T. Howard, W.R. Allan, F.H. Brydges, F.W. Stobart, R.I. Rokeby, F. Storer Brown	1889	
1519	C 18	SCNWT 50/89	J. Hodgkinson Vs. W.R. Bell, T. Howard, W.R. Allan, F.H. Brydges, F.W. Stobart, R.I. Rokeby, F. Storer Brown	1889	
1520	C 18	SCNWT 51/89	J. Sanderson Vs. W.R. Bell, T. Howard, W.R. Allan, F.H. Brydges, F.W. Stobart, R.I. Rokeby, F. Storer Brown	1889	
1521	C 18	SCNWT 52/89	J. Will Vs. W.R. Bell, T. Howard, W.R. Allan, F.H. Brydges, F.W. Stobart, R.I. Rokeby, F. Storer Brown	1889	
1522	C 18	SCNWT 53/89	T. Cutt Vs. W.R. Bell, T. Howard, W.R. Allan, F.H. Brydges, F.W. Stobart, R.I. Rokeby, F. Storer Brown	1889	
1523	D 18	SCNWT 54/89	E. Thompson Vs. W.R. Bell, T. Howard, W.R. Allan, F.H. Brydges, F.W. Stobart, R.I. Rokeby, F. Storer Brown	1889	
1524	D 18	SCNWT 55/89	J. Maguire Vs. W.R. Bell, T. Howard, W.R. Allan, F.H. Brydges, F.W. Stobart, R.I. Rokeby, F. Storer Brown	1889	
1525	D 18	SCNWT 56/89	J. Ligget Vs. W.R. Bell, T. Howard, W.R. Allan, F.H. Brydges, F.W. Stobart, R.I. Rokeby, F. Storer Brown	1889	

1526	D 18	SCNWT 57/89	W. Harrop Vs. W.R. Bell, T. Howard, W.R. Allan, F.H. Brydges, F.W. Stobart, R.I. Rokeby, F. Storer Brown	1889	
1527	D 18	SCNWT 58/89	A. Wilson Vs. W.R. Bell, T. Howard, W.R. Allan, F.H. Brydges, F.W. Stobart, R.I. Rokeby, F. Storer Brown	1889	
1528	D 18	SCNWT 59/89	W. Jeans Vs. W.R. Bell, T. Howard, W.R. Allan, F.H. Brydges, F.W. Stobart, R.I. Rokeby, F. Storer Brown	1889	
1529	D 18	SCNWT 60/89	M. Seddon Vs. W.R. Bell, T. Howard, W.R. Allan, F.H. Brydges, F.W. Stobart, R.I. Rokeby, F. Storer Brown	1889	
1542	G 18	SCNWT 73/89	W.R. Bell Vs. J. Hodgkinson	1889	
1543	G 18	SCNWT 74/89	W.R. Bell Vs. J. Hodgkinson	1889	
1544	G 18	SCNWT 75/89	W.R. Bell Vs. E.R. Hawkins	1889	
1545	G 18	SCNWT 76/89	W.R. Bell Vs. E.R. Hawkins	1889	
1546	G 18	SCNWT 77/89	W.R. Bell Vs., W.E. Hall	1889	
1547	H 18	SCNWT 78/89	W.R. Bell Vs. W.E. Hall	1889	
1548	H 18	SCNWT 79/89	W.R. Bell Vs. J.B. Swift	1889	
1549	H 18	SCNWT 80/89	W.R. Bell Vs. J.B. Swift	1889	
1634	H 01	SCNWT 168/89	J. Glenn Vs.	1889-1891	Microfiche R16/10-2

			W.R. Bell		
1657	L 01	SCNWT --- /89	W.R. Bell Vs. P. Bestwick	1889	
1701	D 02	SCNWT 43/90	Brine McDonald Vs. W.H. Bell	1890	Is "H" a typo for "R", or is W.H. bell another person? (also files 1753, 1755, 1838) – NOTE: A person named "W.H. Bell" lived in Qu'Appelle at this time
1741	K 02	SCNWT 83/90	A.J. Osment Vs. T. Marston	1889-1890	
1745	L 02	SCNWT 87/90	A.J. Osment Vs. Canadian Co-operative Colonization Co.	1890-1891	CCCC was part of the Brassey Farm operation

1889 – Sept. 17 – *Regina Leader* – p. 8 – Court Case: Boyle vs Bell – [check for details](#)

1889 – Sept. 26 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

"Major Bell is shipping a train load of No. 1 hard today (Saturday.)"

1889 – Oct. 7 – *Sessional Paper* No. 12 (pub. 1890), Vol. 10, p. 12-143 – McGibbon's report on Indian labour at Bell and Kaye's Farms

"The first reserve inspected by me was "Standing Buffalo's," Sioux No. 78; area, 7.5 square miles; population, 200. The houses were clean and tidy; most of the Indians were absent, working on the Bell Farm and for Sir John Lister Kaye. . . . ." - *Inspector of Indian Agencies and Reserves* (A.G. McGibbon), *Regina*

1889 – Oct. 8 – *Regina Leader* p. 8 – Rifle Meeting – [check for details](#)

1889 – Oct. 11 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 1 – Bell in Regina rifle competition

**RIFLE SHOOTING.**

—In the score of the Mowat match Griffith, twelfth man, was scored out, St. Denis taking second place with seventy-five. This morning the match for the Lieut. Governor's cup was shot for. There were forty-seven entries. The secretary's tent was blown down with the wind, and the scores are considered excellent taking the wind into account. The cup goes to either Fleming, of Prince Albert, or Abbey, of Moosejaw, a protest being entered against Fleming's score. The other winners are Major Bell, Carruthers, Sweet, Harrin, Gordon, Connor, Steele, St. George, Stewart and Willoughby. The teams will be photographed this afternoon and will be reproduced in "Canada Illustrated." In the afternoon the Bell rifle matches were shot for the trophy to be presented by Major Bell. Sergt. Gordon of Prince Albert captured it with 80

points, range 200, 500 and 600 yards seven shots. There were 47 entries. The other prize winners were: Major Bell, 70; E. A. Griffith, 98; Major Stewart, of Ottawa 67; Sergt. Montgomery, 67; Corp. St. George, 64; W. Bruce, of Moosomin, 64; J. T. S. Cushman, 62; Const. Hall, 62; L. Abbey, 62; H. A. Carruthers, 62; Const. Drake, 60.

—In the extra series, three shots at 500 yards, A. B. Dunnet took with 11, Corp. Bailey made 11 and Sergt. Gor on 10. In five shots at 400 yards, W. M. Williamson made 22, Capt. Harris 20 and Corp. Bird 19.

—The wind was dead against the marksmen, and this will account for some poor scores. The secretary's tent was twice blown down during the afternoon.

—The scores of the Great Telegraphic match have been received. Twenty men competed for each team at two, five and six hundred yards, 7 shots. Regina scored a total of 1100

1889 – Dec. 5 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

"Indian Head . . . On Monday night Major Bell's bull got into a 'big tear' and made it interesting for several of the inhabitants. Fortunately no one was hurt, but several were badly scared and suffered from shortness of breath for some time."

1889 – Dec. 27 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript)

"Indian Head . . . The Municipal Council met on Saturday . . . the claim of Major Bell for credit of 60 days statute labor was not entertained."

# 1890

1890 – Sale of lands to Lord Brassey

(Marg: I am also taking notes on Brassey entries for when I do my Master's thesis on Brassey -- stop laughing -- and I just realized one of them may be of use to you because Brassey bought much of the land sold at the dissolution of Bell' corporate farm. My notation is as follows: Jan 26, 1898): Legal description of land sold in 1897 from Brassey estate. Includes buyers' names.)

1890 – Jan. 2 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

"Indian Head . . . The Municipal Council met today . . . The claim of Major Bell for credit of 60 days statute labour was not entertained." (Marg: obviously copied from an end-of-December item in the Progress.)

1890 – Jan. 4 – *Edmonton Bulletin* – p. 1 – Bell and Lister Kaye project crops

"Sir John Lester Kaye, and Major Bell announce that their operations next season will be on a much larger scale than last year."

1890 – Jan. 16 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

" from the North West Territories Gazette . . . Resignation of Game Guardian accepted, Lt. Col. Percy GB Lake of Grenfell, Assiniboia . . . " (Marg: see the *Bell Farm Visitors Register* for Sept 16, 1887)

1890 - Jan. 17 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript)

Marg: Under "Grenfell" is the report that "Arthur Frederick Lake, youngest son of Lt. Col Lake" died in England. I include this because of an Arthur J ("J" is in red because you question it) Lake is entered in the Bell guest book on Sept 16, 1887. This Progress entry would seem to tell us who he was.

1890 – March 2 – Major Bell in Ottawa (see March 6 Brandon Mail report)

1890 – March 3 \_ *Winnipeg Daily Tribune*

"Major Bell is reported to have sold that portion of his farm south of the railway for \$9 per acre."

1890 - March 6 – *Brandon Mail*, p. 1 – Part of Bell Farm sold

**"THE BELL FARM SOLD.** Ottawa, March 2 – Major Bell of the Indian Head farm, who is here, says that he has sold the farm south of the track for \$9 per acre and is now negotiating for that north of the track with an English company for \$21 per acre."

1890 – March 6 – *Brandon Mail* – p. 4 – Bell Farm Report during sale of lands - Mill & Elevator

- difficult to read article – get a better copy – includes reference to Osment coming west to be the contractor for the Bell Farm, and benefits of the Bell Farm to the Indian Head region

vicinity, as the management Export wholesale, and therefore, absorb, much of the business that is tributary. Originally in 1842, the farm consisted of 64,000 acres, with Major Bell as Manager. It extended about 10 miles wide, and 19 or 20 from north to south. On the reversion in a couple of years since, the Church of England Colony purchased a portion to the east, from the Mortgage Company who control it, the government experimental farm, which is located here and doing good business under Mr. McKay, took another section, sales were again made to private parties, and now Lord Brassey has made a purchase of 26,000 acres, at \$9.00 an acre, and is placing the management under Dr. Fonnar. As nearly as can be learned it is the intention of the Brassey Co., to utilize the large hotel on the farm, as a training school after the manner of the Geolyde (Ont.) model farm, which in connection with the Experimental Farm at the place, ought to be of considerable service to the place and the country. It is, however, supposed this 26,000 acre block will be divided into reasonably sized farms, and farmed in that way.

The organization of the Bell Farm has not, however been without its advantages to the place. It has left a 150 bbl roller process flouring mill with an elevator capacity of 50,000 bushels. M-Mullan and Bro., also have an elevator of 25,000 bushels capacity of the place.

The town has a fine agricultural society of 150 members of which Mr. D. Maclean is a leading spirit. He also handles Harris & Co.'s, implements, and being ready and active is a general convenience, to all the institutions of the place.

R. Lee, an old Londoner, is a harness maker in the place, carrying all the requirements of the locality.

W. Lee, a butcher and cattle dealer, has been many years in the place, and does not regret his selection.

Joseph Glenn homesteaded here in 1862 but in 1885 opened in the livery, feed and sale business and is doing a fine trade.

Jas. Thompson, homesteaded in the early days of the place, but now keeps a boarding house.

R. Crawford is a general merchant and post master, having several land agencies. G. P. Murray is also a general dealer.

A. J. Asment came to the place in its earliest days, intending to be the contractor for the Bell farm buildings, but shortly after commenced as a general dealer. He has now one of the finest general stocks in the country, carrying as the public say, everything from a needle to an anchor—groceries, dry goods, crockery, clothing, hardware, tinware, lumber, furniture, etc. etc. He is depositor for the Bible Society. He has a fine trade, and a well fitted up store and residence, heated by hot air, and having hard and soft water on the premises. The contracting business does not agree with him, and he therefore offers a fine business opening to an enterprising man with a moderate capital.

W. R. Boyd is proprietor and manager of the Commercial hotel. He put it up in 1883. It has 11 bed rooms, bar, billiard and sample rooms, and is comfortably equipped and kept. Has a large stable in connection.

The place has two blacksmith shops, two carpenters, a skating rink 4x110, affording considerable amusement to the young. It has a medical man, Dr. Hunt, who has a wild field for his territory. Mr Guthrie is the school teacher, and has charge of 40 pupils. A Masonic lodge of 20 members; an agricultural society of 400 members. Both of these societies hold their meetings in the new municipal hall 30x50 just erected. The Presbyterians are the only denomination who hold services and as a consequence their congregation is very strong.

The town is in the centre of a country municipality about 18x42 miles in proportion, and as a whole the taxes in this do not exceed \$2.50 on a quarter section a year, to cover school and other expenditures. This is a strong contrast with the \$40 to \$60 tax of Dakota, across the line. As the Bell farm is being sold at \$9 an acre, this very nearly fixes the price of land in the vicinity.

To show the crops of this section have not been bad this year, we may say there were 45,000 bushels of wheat exported last season, and there is still some in reserve. Some of the crop was not good, but 20 bushels per acre was a common thing, and one McCallum had 35 bushels per acre off his entire farm. With the Bell farm divided into small lots, the country around is certain to grow and prosper, and with it the town itself.

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of considerable importance in the near future.

**INDIAN HEAD.**

This town is noted for being the seat of the celebrated Bell Farm, which happily for the country and the town is going into dissolution. It is a question in any event whether such large farming can be made to pay in the country, there being so much hiring, and so many other objections. Certain it is, however, they are always an injury to the town in their

20 kb

66 kb

66 kb

1890 – March 7 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript)

"Indian Head . . . Major Bell of the Indian Head farm, who is in Ottawa, says that he has sold the farm south of the tracks for \$9 per acre, and is now negotiating for that north of the track with an English company for \$21 an acre."

1890 - March 11 – *Regina Leader* p. 1 –Brassey operations on former Bell Farm lands

"**INDIAN HEAD. Operations of the Brassey Company – Indian Head Wheat.** Indian Head. March 10. The manager of the Brassey Company (who have bought a large tract of land from the Bell Farming Co.) was in town this week and states that the company will begin active operations this spring. In May fifty families from the Old Country will be located on the land. A number of teams and cattle have been bought and will be here this spring. Building operations will be on an extensive scale."

1890 - March 11 – *Regina Leader* , p. 8 – Bell plans to sell more farm land

"Major Bell, of the Bell farm at Indian Head, has recently sold that portion of the farm south of the C.P.R. track at \$9 per acre. He is now negotiating with an English capitalist for the sale of the remainder of the farm, including the homestead, at a price considerably over \$20 per acre."

1890 – March 22 – *Edmonton Bulletin*, p.3 – Bell sells part of Farm south of CPR

"W.R. Bell, of the celebrated Bell farm at Indian Head, has recently sold that portion of the farm south of the C.P.R. tracks at \$9 per acre. He is now negotiating with an English capitalist for the sale of the remainder of the farm, including the homestead, at a price considerably over \$20 per acre."

1890 - March 24 - *Manitoba Daily Free Press* - A Blue Blooded Horse

"Major Bell of Indian Head, who has just returned from Great Britain, has brought with him the thoroughbred stallion Ovington in whose veins courses the best racing blood of England. The horse is from Blush Rose, the winner of the Royal Oaks, by Speculum, winner of the Derby. The famous horse Horizon is the sire. Ovington's colour is pure black. While at Toronto for a few days the animal was greatly admired by horsemen and it is said that it has not an equal on the American continent. Mr. Bell does not intend to put Ovington on the track but will keep him on his farm for breeding purposes. Mr. Bell will pass through Winnipeg in a couple of days on the way to Indian Head."

BLUSH ROSE,				
Bred by Mr A. YOUNG, in 1877, got by Speculum, her dam, Hedge Rose,				
by Neptunus, out of Woodbine, by Stockwell.				
1884	b. f.	<i>Light and Shade</i> , by Horizon (sent to Germany) -		} Mr R. Lumley
1885	bl. c.	<i>Ovington</i> , by ditto -		
1886	b. f.	<i>Maud Mary</i> , by ditto -		
1887		not covered last year -		
1888	ch. f.	by Blue Grass -		
1889		by ditto -		

Source for Blush Rose table: *The General Stud Book Containing Pedigrees of Race Horses from the earliest Accounts to the Year 1888 inclusive*



1890 – March 25 – *Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 3 – Sale of Bell Farm to Brassey

“W.R. Bell, of the celebrated Bell farm at Indian Head, has recently sold that portion of the farm south of the C.P.R. track at \$9 per acre. He is now negotiating with an English capitalist for the sale of the remainder of the farm, including the homestead, at a price considerably over \$20 per acre.”

1890 – April 4 – *Qu’Appelle Progress* (Marg’s transcript)

“Indian Head . . . Major Bell has purchased ten Superior press seeder drills through Mr. Jos. Glenn, Massey’s agent here.”

p. 1 “Carpenters are at work on the big brick hotel preparing it for the Brassey Co’s men, who are expected to arrive shortly.”

1890 – May 9 – *Qu’Appelle Progress* (Marg’s transcript)

“Indian Head . . . Between 60 and 70 persons have arrived from England, under the auspices of the C.C.&C. Co (Brassey’s Canadian Cooperative Colonization Company), who have purchased a large quantity of land from the Bell farm. Farming operations will be begun on a large scale at once. Two cars of working oxen came up this week, and 16 teams of horses are expected in the course of a few days.”

1890 – June 3 – *Regina Leader*, p. 1 - Bell President of Liberal-Conservative Association

**INDIAN HEAD,**

**Liberal-Conservative Meeting.—Mr. Davidson M.P.A. Addresses His Constituents.**

INDIAN HEAD, May 31.—The annual meeting of the Liberal-Conservative Association was held this afternoon in the Commercial Hotel. A. McKay, President, in the chair.

After the adoption of the minutes of last meeting, the following gentlemen were elected officers for the ensuing year:

W. R. Bell, President;  
R. Crawford, 1st Vice President;  
A. McKay, 2nd Vice President;  
A. W. Sherwood, Sec’y-Treas.

Messrs. J. Bannell, Boyd, Conn, W. Johnson, Fishlough, Mooney, J. Ewart, W. Kirkland, Braithwaite, J. McDonald, J. Beech, T. Donnelly, T. Jackson, H. Bonnycastle, Skinner, W. Stephens, J. Saupke, P. Dayman, H. Todd, D. Railton, E. Bouns, J. Harvey, W. Douglas, were appointed directors.

Resolutions were carried as follows:—

“That the expenses of the Association be raised by voluntary subscription.”

“That the officers of the Association be a committee to draft a set of rules for the order of business meetings.”

“That W. R. Bell, R. Crawford, W. R. Boyd and W. Johnson be delegates to attend the annual meeting of the Central Association at Broadview.”



1890 – June 5 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

Marg: Indian Head, Annual meeting of Liberal-Conservative Association held. WR Bell president.

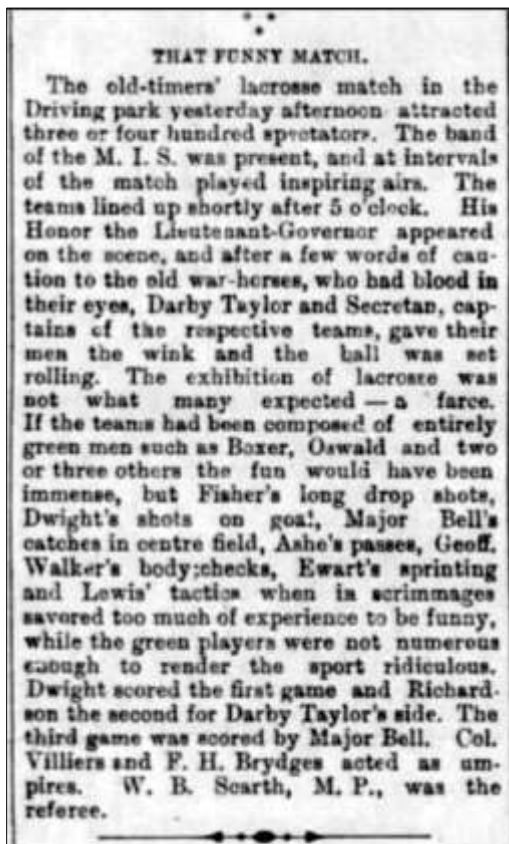
1890 – June 6 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript)

“Indian Head . . . The annual meeting of the Liberal Conservative Association was held in the Commercial Hotel, Saturday afternoon (sic) A McKay, president, in the chair . . . the following gentlemen were appointed officers for the ensuing year. W.R. Bell, pres; R. Crawford, 1<sup>st</sup> vice president; A.M. McKay, 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president; A.W. Sherwood, secretary-treasurer . . . W.R. Bell, R. Crawford and W. Thompson be delegates to attend the annual meeting of the central association in Broadview.”

1890 – June 21 – *Winnipeg Daily Tribune* - List of people “registered with the Manitoba government” – whatever that meant in 1890. It includes Major Bell near the bottom of the listing.

“The following registered recently at the office of the Manitoba government, 30 York Street, Toronto: Henry Dunlop . . . . W.R. Bell, Bell Farm, David Cautelon . . . .”

1890 - June 21 *Winnipeg Tribune* - Secretan and Major Bell participate in Lacrosse



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## 1890 – June – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
279	June 25, 1890	Geo. W. Burbidge	Ottawa	Ontario
280	“	??? Audette	“	Ontario

1890 – Aug. 21 – *Qu’Appelle Vidette* (Marg’s transcript)

“Indian Head . . . The crop outlook was never so promising . . . There will be nearly 50,000 bushels of wheat on the Bell Farm alone. “Major Bell started cutting on the 19 inst, with 12 binders.”

1890 – Aug. 29 – *Qu’Appelle Progress*, p. 1 – Judge Bell hears strike complaint in court

**The North-West** – News Culled for the Progress by our own correspondents – INDIAN HEAD – On Monday morning last, seven men under contract with the Canadian Co-operative Co. Cp. Left the premises of the Co., and it is said went on strike. They simply took their personal belongings, and left the Co.’s service without notice and in violation of their contract. To this the manager, Mr. Sheppard, objected, and laid information against them for the desertion of employment. Six of them were arrested and brought before Major Bell on Tuesday. Four of them pleaded guilty and were fined \$10 and costs. Two pleaded not guilty, and were fined \$15 and costs, the six paying the court \$114. When brought into court the reason assigned by the men for their action was that the character of the food supplied them was inferior, but this was proven to be false, that in fact the food supplied by the Co. was first-class. The seventh man was arrested at Portage la Prairie and is bring brought back for trial. The men are now thrown upon their own resources and are no doubt saddened and wiser for their experience. It is said that they were instigated in their action by listening too much to the vapid talk of *barroom loafers*.

1890 – Sept. 1 – *Sessional Papers* – 1891 – Vol. 15, No. 18, p. 18-42 – Indian Agent J.B. Lash’s report on Indian workers on the Bell and Kaye Farms in 1889

“The Sioux (Standing Buffalo’s Band) received assistance only during seeding and haying, supporting themselves the remainder of the year by their own exertions. These Indians are in great demand as farm hands during the harvest season. Last year I had applications for forty more than could be supplied; they were working principally on the bell Farm at Indian head and the Kaye Farm at Balgonie.”

1890 – Sept. 8 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press* (Terri Lefebvre Prince’s transcript)

“Major Bell of Indian Head was a guest at the Queen Hotel in Winnipeg.”

1890 – September – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
281	Sept. 13, 1890	Henry F. Moore	??? Mark Lane ??? London, Eng.	
282 a & b	Sept. 17, 1890	Mr. & Mrs. Alex Allen	Glasgow	Scotland
283	“	Miss Allen	“	“
284	“	Miss Janie Allen	“	“
285	“	Mr. Claud A. Allen	“	“

1890- Sept. 30 – *Regina Leader* , p. 1– Assiniboia Provincial Rifle Association – Major Bell wins various matches

**ASSN. PROV. RIFLE ASS'N.**  
**Second Annual Meeting – A Successful Affair – The Prize Winners.**  
 The second annual prize meeting of the Assiniboia Provincial Rifle Association began Wednesday Sept. 24th. The weather on all the days was delightful; warm and clear. The wind on Wednesday was somewhat gusty from 10 o'clock to 11. The attendance from outside points was not as large as last year, but the interest was keen. The arrangements throughout were most complete, thanks to the committee, and especially to Mr. J. W. Jowett, the Hon. Secretary.

The proceedings were opened by Mrs. D. Mowat firing the first shot, with the result of a bull's eye.

The first match on the list was the "Nursery," seven shots at 200 yards. The following are the prize winners:

**THE NURSERY MATCH.**

1. Silver Medal. S. Vardey. .... 31
2. \$5.00. A. E. Forget. .... 30
3. 4.00. G. Walsh. .... 28
4. 3.00. E. H. Road. .... 28
5. 3.00. John Carson. .... 27
6. 2.00. J. T. Stenshorn. .... 27
7. 2.00. S. E. Phillips. .... 27
8. 1.00. J. H. Willoughby. .... 26
9. 1.00. J. W. Jowett. .... 25
10. 1.00. Geo. Jackson. .... 23
11. 1.00. G. Nesbitt. .... 14

**THE LADIES MATCH.**

1. Major D. Mowat for Mrs. McKay. 34
2. R. J. Steel for Mrs. W. H. Hunt. 31
3. F. Nash for Miss Hamilton. .... 31
4. L. Abbey for Mrs. Abbey. .... 30
5. H. A. Carruthers for Mrs. Carruthers. 30
6. Major Mowat for Mrs. D. Mowat. .... 30
7. R. J. Steel for Miss A. Lock. .... 30
8. Capt. Harris for Mrs. Harris. .... 29
9. R. Sweet for Miss Sweet. .... 29
10. W. Laurie for Mrs. Forget. .... 27

**THE MONDAY MATCH.**

7 shots each at 200, 500, 600 yds.
1. Major W. R. Bell. .... 29 27 23-79
2. L. Abbey. .... 31 20 21-72
3. A. E. Forget. .... 28 24 19-71
4. H. A. Carruthers. .... 27 24 17-68
5. Major Mowat. .... 33 23 12-68
6. R. Sweet. .... 34 23 8-65
7. R. J. Steel. .... 30 12 22-64
8. W. Williamson. .... 29 19 16-64
9. W. Laurie. .... 29 21 14-64
10. F. Nash. .... 25 18 19-62
11. Captain Harris. .... 25 24 11-60
12. J. W. Jowett. .... 32 12 15-59

**Extra Series Match. 200 Yards. Three shots.**

1. R. J. Steel. .... 15
2. Major Mowat. .... 15
3. E. H. Road. .... 15

**Extra Series Match. 400 Yards. Three shots.**

1. Major Mowat. .... 14
2. W. Williamson. .... 14
3. Captain Harris. .... 14

**Extra Series Match. 600 Yards. Three shots.**

1. Major Bell. .... 13
2. E. A. Griffiths. .... 13
3. J. W. Jowett. .... 13

**Extra Series Match. 800 Yards. Three shots.**

1. John Carson. .... 10
2. L. Abbey. .... 9
3. R. J. Steel. .... 9

**SECOND DAY**  
 The matches were resumed on Thursday morning with magnificently fine weather, a gentle breeze blowing from 2 o'clock.

The result of Thursday's shooting is as follows:

**THE LIEUT.-GOVERNOR'S MATCH.**

**THE LIEUT.-GOVERNOR'S MATCH.**  
 Seven shots each at 400 yards.

1. Silver Cup & \$5. J. F. Mowat. .... 31
2. Cash \$4.00. Captain Harris. .... 31
3. " 1.00. J. T. Stenshorn. .... 30
4. " 3.00. H. A. Carruthers. .... 30
5. " 2.00. Major Mowat. .... 29
6. " 2.00. L. Abbey. .... 29
7. " 3.00. R. J. Steel. .... 28
8. " 1.00. John Carson. .... 28
9. " 1.00. R. Sweet. .... 28
10. " 1.00. A. E. Forget. .... 27
11. " 1.00. J. W. Jowett. .... 27
12. " 1.00. W. Laurie. .... 27

**THE FIVE MATCH.**  
 Seven shots each at 500, 600 yds.

1. \$10.00 Major Bell. .... 25 25-50
2. 6.00 Major Mowat. .... 24 21-45
3. 4.00 M. McLeod. .... 26 18-41
4. 3.00 J. T. Stenshorn. .... 21 18-39
5. 3.00 J. W. Jowett. .... 25 13-38
6. 2.00 Capt. Harris. .... 19 18-37
7. 2.00 R. Steel. .... 22 15-37
8. 1.00 Dr. Willoughby. .... 18 18-36
9. 1.00 R. Sweet. .... 20 14-34
10. 1.00 A. E. Forget. .... 15 18-33
11. 1.00 W. H. Williamson. .... 17 14-31
12. 1.00 E. A. Griffiths. .... 13 17-30

**VICE-PRESIDENT HERR'S MATCH.**  
 Seven shots each at 200, 500, 600 yds.

1. Clerk R. Sweet. .... 30 29 19-78
2. \$5.00 E. A. Griffiths. .... 30 26 21-76
3. 4.00 Major Bell. .... 32 26 18-74
4. 3.00 Major Mowat. .... 29 29 21-73
5. 3.00 R. J. Steel. .... 28 25 20-73
6. 2.00 H. Carruthers. .... 28 30 14-72
7. 2.00 W. Williamson. .... 22 18-69
8. 1.00 S. Vardey. .... 26 27 15-68
9. 1.00 Capt. Harris. .... 31 17 13-63
10. 1.00 F. Nash. .... 20 18 18-62
11. 1.00 J. W. Jowett. .... 22 17-62
12. 1.00 J. Stenshorn. .... 29 26 7-62

(Balance of report next week)

**THE MONDAY MATCH.**  
 Seven shots each at 200, 500, 600 yds.

1. Major D. Mowat for Mrs. McKay. 34
2. R. J. Steel for Mrs. W. H. Hunt. 31
3. F. Nash for Miss Hamilton. .... 31
4. L. Abbey for Mrs. Abbey. .... 30
5. H. A. Carruthers for Mrs. Carruthers. 30
6. Major Mowat for Mrs. D. Mowat. .... 30
7. R. J. Steel for Miss A. Lock. .... 30
8. Capt. Harris for Mrs. Harris. .... 29
9. R. Sweet for Miss Sweet. .... 29
10. W. Laurie for Mrs. Forget. .... 27

**THE MONDAY MATCH.**

7 shots each at 200, 500, 600 yds.
1. Major W. R. Bell. .... 29 27 23-79
2. L. Abbey. .... 31 20 21-72
3. A. E. Forget. .... 28 24 19-71
4. H. A. Carruthers. .... 27 24 17-68
5. Major Mowat. .... 33 23 12-68
6. R. Sweet. .... 34 23 8-65
7. R. J. Steel. .... 30 12 22-64
8. W. Williamson. .... 29 19 16-64
9. W. Laurie. .... 29 21 14-64
10. F. Nash. .... 25 18 19-62
11. Captain Harris. .... 25 24 11-60
12. J. W. Jowett. .... 32 12 15-59

**Extra Series Match. 200 Yards. Three shots.**

1. R. J. Steel. .... 15
2. Major Mowat. .... 15
3. E. H. Road. .... 15

**Extra Series Match. 400 Yards. Three shots.**

1. Major Mowat. .... 14
2. W. Williamson. .... 14
3. Captain Harris. .... 14

**Extra Series Match. 600 Yards. Three shots.**

1. Major Bell. .... 13
2. E. A. Griffiths. .... 13
3. J. W. Jowett. .... 13

**Extra Series Match. 800 Yards. Three shots.**

1. John Carson. .... 10
2. L. Abbey. .... 9
3. R. J. Steel. .... 9

**SECOND DAY**  
 The matches were resumed on Thursday morning with magnificently fine weather, a gentle breeze blowing from 2 o'clock.

The result of Thursday's shooting is as follows:

**THE LIEUT.-GOVERNOR'S MATCH.**

63 kb

49 kb

99 kb

## 1890 – October – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
286	Oct. 3, 1890	John Speir	Newton, Glasgow	Scotland - John Speir, an agricultural authority and founder of milk-recording in Scotland, visited the Bell Farm as a member of the 1890 tenant-farmer delegation.
287	"	Pierre Foursin	Paris	France – invited to join the Tenant-Farmer Delegates by the Canadian High Commissioner to France
288	"	John T. Wood	Halwood, Lancashire	England - A member of the Tenant-Farm Delegation from Great Britain.
289	"	Geo. Brown	Walter Caithness, Scotland	A member of the Tenant-Farm Delegation from Great Britain.
290	"	Wm. Scotson	Moberley Hill Lpool	England - A member of the Tenant-Farm Delegation from Great Britain.
291	"	Major Stevenson	N.I. Delegate, London	Northern Ireland - A member of the Tenant-Farm Delegation from Great Britain.
292	"	Primrose McConnell	Ongar, Essex	England - A tenant-farmer invited to join the Tenant-Farm Delegation from Great Britain.
293	"	Geo. H. Campbell	Winnipeg	Manitoba George Huestis Campbell (b. 1858) was at one time a Ticket Agent and later the General Immigration Manager of the C.P.R. in Winnipeg. He visited the Bell Farm on October 3, 1890, as a guide to the Tenant-Farmer Delegates. A year later he became a primary investor and the General Manager of the Winnipeg Electric Street Railway Company
294	Oct. 8, 1890	E. Robson	New Westminster, B.C.	Rev. Ebenezer and Mrs. Ellen M. Robson, stationed primarily in British Columbia, where Rev. Robson served as a Methodist minister
295	"	Ellen M. Robson	"	Wife of Ebenezer Robson, and half sister of Major bell
296	"	John H. Bell	Brockville, Ont.	

## 1890 – Supreme Court of the NWT – Law Suits

SAB File	Microfiche Box Reference	District Court / Supreme Court of NWT	Conflicting Parties	Year(s)	Comments
1701	D 02	SCNWT 43/90	Brine McDonald Vs.	1890	Is "H" a typo for "R", or is W.H. bell another

			W.H. Bell		person? (also files 1753, 1755, 1838)
1741	K 02	SCNWT 83/90	A.J. Osment Vs. T. Marston	1889-1890	
1745	L 02	SCNWT 87/90	A.J. Osment Vs. Canadian Co-operative Colonization Co.	1890-1891	CCCC was part of the Brassey Farm operation

1890 – Oct. 3 – *Sessional Paper* – 1891, Vol. 4, No 6, p. 6-104 Visit of Tenant-Farmer Delegates to Canada from England – report from G.H. Campbell

<p>REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS WITH BRITISH FARM DELEGATES IN MANITOBA AND NORTH-WEST.</p> <p>(MR. G. H. CAMPBELL.)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">—</p> <p style="text-align: right;">OTTAWA, 25th December, 1890.</p> <p>SIR,—I have the honour to submit herewith a report of my trip through Canada in company with the British Farmer Delegates as follows:—</p> <p>At your request I left Winnipeg on 7th September, and came to Ottawa where I met delegates, Messrs. Wood, Simmons, Scotson and Pitt on the 15th, and in company with yourself we all left same night for Toronto to attend the Industrial Exhibition at that place.</p> <p>On arrival there we were joined by delegates Messrs. Spiers, Brown, Murphy, Edwards, Daniels, Hutchinson and Col. Fane, who had arrived there in advance of the others, and were in charge of Mr. Small, secretary of your Department. The next day Major Stevenson arrived, thus completing the party of thirteen in all. The following are the names and addresses of the party:—</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">John T. Wood, Halewood, Lancashire, England. Wm. Scotson, Mosley Hill, Liverpool do H. Simmons, Reading, London do R. Pitt, Ilminster, Somersetshire do Geo. Daniels, Norfolk do Geo. Hutchinson, Penrith, Cumberland do Col. F. Fane, Fulbeck, Lincolnshire do Wm. Edwards, Ruthvin, Wales John Spier, Newton, Glasgow, Scotland. Geo. Brown, Caithness do Major D. W. Stevenson, Londonderry, Ireland. E. R. Murphy, Tralee do P. Foursin, Paris, France.</p> <p>After spending two days at the Exhibition at Toronto, we left for Winnipeg in the private sleeping car "Gatineau," in charge of porter Sam. Gray, kindly placed at our disposal by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company.</p>	
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1890 – Oct. 3 – Visit of Tenant-Farmer Delegates to Canada from England (1891 report to Gov. of Canada, Dept of Agriculture – by George Brown, p. 33) – Bell Farm, although greatly reduced, is still very large, and has a 27 mile circumference. Also reference to the Brassey Farm, which was carved out of the original Bell Farm.

Our next stop is at Regina, the capital of the North-West, visiting Indian Head on our way. Here is situated the North-West Experimental Farm, as also the famous Bell and Brassey Farms. The Bell Farm is a big undertaking—much too big for one man to carry out the work with economy. It is 13,000 acres in extent, and takes a ride of 27 miles to go round it. There are 1,600 acres under wheat this year, and Major Bell expects to put in 3,000 acres next year. The produce is about 25 bushels per acre, and the cost of production from \$4 to \$5 per acre. There is frequently 40 per cent. lost by frost, which might be saved to a considerable extent if the farm was divided into holdings of one-twentieth the size. One furrow outwards and another homewards is the half-day's work for a man and pair of horses. The climate is unsuitable; that is, it is too big a risk to have a grain farm pure and simple so far west and north, although mixed farming would leave money.

The Brassey Farm has just been started, and consists of 40,000 acres. A commencement has been made by establishing a fair lot of Clydesdale mares, the intention being to breed horses of greater bone and substance, which will soon be required for farm purposes. There is also a fair herd of cattle. The land is fair. Grain-growing is also to be taken up as time goes on.

1890 – Oct. 3 – Visit of Tenant-Farmer Delegates to Canada from England – report from Arthur Daniel, p. 13, and 18-19

## THE REPORT OF MR. ARTHUR DANIEL,

172, Dereham Road, Norwich.

HAVING been chosen by Sir C. Tupper as one of the farmer delegates to visit Canada for the purpose of ascertaining the resources of the country and its suitability for emigrants, I have to report that I left Liverpool on the 28th of August, in the Allan steamship "Circassian," and arrived in Montreal on the 8th of September.

As this Report will doubtless be read by many who have no idea of the extent of the Dominion of Canada, I will briefly describe the extent of our journey. From Montreal we travelled to Ottawa and Toronto, where we were met by Mr. G. H. Campbell, who acted as pilot for the remainder of the journey.

Having had a special railway car placed at our service, our pilot gave the word of command, "All aboard," and we started for the Great North-West. After having travelled some 700 miles, and when near Thunder Bay—remarkable for its grand scenery—we experienced one of the many slight railway accidents so often heard of in the New World; but luckily for us, it proved to be comparatively harmless, for, with the exception of the engine leaving the track, and the five hours' delay, no one in the train suffered further inconvenience than having one's breakfast emptied into one's lap. Then we proceeded on our way to Winnipeg, Carman, Glenborough, Souris, Brandon, Rapid City, Minnedosa, Saltcoats, Portage-la-Prairie, Regina, Prince Albert, Calgary, Banff, New Westminster, Vancouver, and Victoria. Thence we retraced our steps to Old England, where I arrived on the 22nd of November, having travelled 16,000 miles by water and rail, and 1,000 by road.

p. 13 (above) G.H Campbell as Delegate Tour Guide from Toronto westward.

Thence we went to Indian Head, where is situated the famous **Bell Farm**, which, like most other great speculations in farming and ranching, appears to be a failure, though from what cause it is difficult to say. We were told by some that it is owing to mismanagement, and

*Mr. Arthur Daniel's Report.*

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from what I saw I quite believe that a great deal may be attributed to this cause: Moreover, we heard of absurd things being practised on one of these large farms further west, such as buying 40 new water-carts for the purpose of watering the crops when the sun was 90 degrees in the shade. It is said that the season in 1889 being dry, this was tried as an experiment. We here obtained information that the chief of the land adjoining the railway from Virden to Broadview is held by speculators. This will prove a serious drawback to settlement; for, like Winnipeg, these places are at a standstill, as the new settlers are obliged to take up land a long way from the rail. But this will right itself, as all this unsold land is subject to taxation. At Regina we saw some very fine specimens of roots and potatoes, which were good all through the North-West. From Regina to Calgary the land appears to be of the same character. Prince Albert, to which the rail had been only just opened, is destined to become a rising place.

1890 – Oct. 3 – Visit of Tenant-Farmer Delegates to Canada from England – report from Henry Simmons, p. 92-93

in a country where straw is not valued as a manure. We left Portage on Thursday evening, arriving at Indian Head on Friday morning, and having breakfasted at the Commercial Hotel, went at once over the Government Experimental Farm, carried on here under the management of Mr. Mackay exactly on the same lines as those already described at Ottawa and Brandon, and certainly with equal credit to him as regards skill. The land is of better quality, but the climate more backward. Here an excellent lunch was prepared for our party, and great hospitality shown to us by Mr. and Mrs. Mackay.

We then started to see the world-wide known **Bell Farm**, formerly consisting of 53,000 acres, but not proving a success, the land was sold, some 13,000 acres being purchased by the then manager, Major **Bell**, and the remainder by a colonisation society under Lord Brassey. A very heavy storm of rain and hail coming on, we could not do justice to Major **Bell's** farming, as, unfortunately for him, we entered on the side of his holding on which all his wheat was badly frosted, much standing uncut and horses and cattle feeding on it, and the other cut green and made into stacks for fodder. The storm was so heavy that we turned back, and did not see his finer and better wheats, of which he had grown 1,400 acres, and hoped next year to grow 3,000 acres and 200 of oats. We saw at his house, which with the buildings was remarkably good, some good samples of the corn grown this season. The Colonisation Society's Farm comprises 60 sections of 640 acres each, but as it was only started in May last little work has been done beyond the erection of a manager's house, buildings, and cottages. The idea is for English labourers to be assisted



*Mr. Henry Simmons's Report.*

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to emigrate, work on the farm for a year, and then settle according to ability on portions of the land unbroken, payments being extended in easy instalments over several years. It will be interesting to see how this experiment answers. We saw some good English Shire horses, and noticed 500 Shorthorn cattle in one field. This neighbourhood is not equal to that we had just left, and as we rejoined our car at three o'clock in the afternoon and travelled towards Regina, we passed through prairie land of rather poor quality, little wood upon it, and very few settlers.

The cost of producing a crop of wheat from sowing to the delivery into the elevator is estimated throughout Manitoba at from 28s. to 30s. an acre.

We reached Regina, but made no stay there this time, going on a 250 miles journey by train to Prince Albert, arriving there on Sunday morning after a somewhat uninteresting travel through a flat prairie

1890 – Oct. 3 – Visit of Tenant-Farmer Delegates to Canada from England – report from George Hutchinson, p. 40

From Portage-la-Prairie we continued our journey westward, on the main line of the Canadian Pacific; the first halt being at Indian Head, in Assiniboia, 314 miles west of Winnipeg. Near Indian Head are situated the Bell Farm, the Farm of the Brassey Colonisation Company, and the Government Experimental Farm. We visited these farms, but as our inspection was made in an almost continuous down-pour of rain, we could hardly do them justice. I noticed that some of the wheat on the Bell Farm had been much damaged by frost, and consequently was a very poor sample. The new railway from Regina northward having just been completed, we travelled over it as far as Prince Albert. Notwithstanding the deluge of rain from above, and the unlimited amount of mud below, the next day was spent in seeing the surrounding country. We were shown some very good samples of wheat and barley. The cattle also appeared to be healthy, in good condition, and more numerous than I expected to find them in a district which had, until recently, been so very remote from any railway communication. Prince Albert was the most northerly point reached during our tour in Canada. On our return to Regina we attended an exhibition of roots and vegetables, among which were some remarkably fine specimens. North of Regina there are two or three small stock ranches.

1890 – Oct. 3 – Visit of Tenant-Farmer Delegates to Canada from England – report from Major Stevenson, p. 28

representative of those I saw. All were contented. At Indian Head, I visited the experimental farm, and was shown every attention by Mr. Mackay. This farm will prove of great benefit to the agriculturists of the North-West Territories; the principal is a thoroughly practical man, whose whole heart is devoted to the work in which he is engaged. I visited the celebrated Bell farm. This farm is entirely given up to wheat-raising; the fields are of immense size—some being four miles in length—the buildings on the farm are very good, the land of excellent quality, and well cultivated. After leaving Major Bell's, I visited what is known as the Brassey Farm. This is a property recently taken up by a Colonisation Company, of which Lord Brassey is chairman. They have acquired some 60 sections, or upwards of 38,000 acres, and considerable preparations are being made for the reception of emigrants. I arrived at Prince Albert on Sunday, 5th October. The

1890 – Oct. 3 – Visit of Tenant-Farmer Delegates to Canada from England – report from John Speir, p. 42

on to Neepawa. Here another day was passed seeing the farms and interviewing the farmers, after which we moved on to Portage-la-Prairie, where another day was spent seeing the district and people.

Here we again joined the Canadian Pacific Railway, which was followed to Indian Head, where we examined the Dominion Government Experimental Farm, the Bell Farm, and the Brassey Farm. Leaving Indian Head, we went on to Regina, where a short stay was made, and thence by a new branch line just finished we passed on to Prince Albert. Having had a day's driving round Prince Albert, we again returned to Regina, where an exhibition of roots, vegetables, &c.,

1890 – Oct. 3 – Visit of Tenant-Farmer Delegates to Canada from England – report from William Scotson, p. 58

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*The Agricultural Resources of Canada.*

Winnipeg, and these lines are fast throwing out branches. The lines west of Winnipeg, and tributary to it, aggregate 2,800 miles, where only ten years ago there was not a single mile in operation. Winnipeg appears destined to become one of the greatest commercial centres on the American Continent. I am convinced of this fact when I try to realise the future of Manitoba and the great North-Western territories. This great plain of prairie land, stretches from Winnipeg to Calgary, or near to the far-famed Rocky Mountains, a distance well on to 1,000 miles, through which the Canadian Pacific Railway track runs. All along this line of railway are agricultural towns and stations springing up. At many of these, such as Brandon, Regina, Calgary, &c., there are grain elevators to receive the grain as soon as it is threshed from the fields or stacks; also stores of every kind, and hotels and boarding houses, mostly built of wood. My readers will please remember 1,000 miles is a long way, and I have only mentioned three towns as illustrating quite a number of others, such as Portage-la-Prairie, a town of 3,000 inhabitants, and situated on the Assiniboine River, with grain elevators, flour mills, stores, &c. From Regina a branch railway runs north-west for 180 miles towards Prince Albert. Amongst the other towns are Rapid City, Minnedosa, Medicine Hat, Wolsley, Indian Head, &c., all on lines of railway. At Indian Head is situated another Government experimental farm, which is presided over by Mr. McCoy, a thoroughly practical man, well fitted for his post. In the same neighbourhood are the great Bell Farm and the Lord Brassey Farm, with their studs of horses and thousands of acres of land. All these places I visited: and when I tell my readers that ten years ago the sites of nearly all of them were unbroken, wild, prairie land, without a sign of civilization, they may begin to form some idea of the thousands upon thousands of acres of this same kind of prairie land still untouched in Manitoba and the North-West territories, and yet these regions are now beginning to export grain to the markets of the globe. Therefore, I feel that I am doing scant justice to this great plain, stretching from Winnipeg to Calgary, when I say, that it is now only beginning to be realised that here will be the great wheat-growing district, the granary of Canada. But it is not only grain that is grown here; I was driven over fully a thousand miles in light conveyances, diverging from some of the towns mentioned, and in my travels found potatoes everywhere, grown by all classes of settlers, from the large farms like Sir Donald Smith's, near Winnipeg.

1890 – Oct 7 – Regina Leader – p. 1 –

Report on Assiniboia Provincial Rifle Association competition - (continuation from previous week) – results include references to Major Bell’s achievements. Prizes awarded at the Lansdowne Hotel, Regina.

**OCTOBER 7, 1890**

**ASSA. PROV. RIFLE ASS'N.**  
(Continued from last week.)

**THIRD DAY.**

Friday morning's shooting opened with another splendid morning, sun warm and genial, with a little breeze blowing from the rear, albeit the sun was almost too bright for perfect shooting weather.

**THE MERCHANTS MATCH.**

1 shot at 20- & 50 yds.

1. Set Harness, Major Mowat	29	21-50
2. Leader 3 yrs, R. Sweet	32	27-50
3. Pair trousers, H. A. Carruthers	31	27-50
4. Pair trousers, L. Abbey	29	27-50
5. Trav. satchel, J. Carson	29	27-50
6. Sunkers set, H. J. Steel	31	25-50
7. Box clars, Major Bell	30	25-50
8. Meat 8 1/2, Capt. Harris	29	24-50
9. Shaving set, W. Williamson	29	24-50
10. Briar pipe, A. E. Forget	29	22-51
11. Journal 1 yr, J. P. Mowat	31	20-50
12. Shaving ticket, Dr. Willoughby	23	21-50

UNDEVELOPED TEAMS MATCH



**AFFILIATED TEAMS MATCH.**

Teams 5 men each, 7 shots at each range.

1st prize \$15.00 200, 500, 600 yds.

Major Bell, (Captain)	32	34	26-92
Jno. Carson	29	26	24-79
L. Abbey	29	29	10-68
A. E. Forget	27	27	13-67
J. T. Stenshorn	29	23	13-65
<hr/>			
	146	139	86-371

2nd prize \$10.00

R. Sweet, (Captain)	29	27	24-80
W. Williamson	30	22	21-73
R. J. Steel	29	19	19-67
E. A. Griffith	30	21	13-64
W. Laurie	31	16	6-53
<hr/>			
	140	105	83-337

3rd prize \$5.00

H. A. Carruthers	29	25	21-75
Major Mowat, (Captain)	26	22	20-68
Capt. Harris	24	21	20-67
J. F. Mowat	27	24	13-64
Insp. Norman	28	20	13-61
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	136	112	87-335

**THE GRAND AGGREGATE PRIZES.**

The totals in matches Nos. 3, 5, 6 & 8



<p>E TAIL CE E acon inery TIO</p>	<p>136 112 87—335</p> <p>THE GRAND AGGREGATE PRIZES.</p> <p>The totals in matches Nos. 3, 5, 6 &amp; 8.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Governor General's silver medal, Major Bell..... 259</li> <li>2. The Governor General's Bronze medal, Major Mowat..... 246</li> <li>3. Silver cup and badge, R. Sweet... 236</li> <li>4. Pickle stand and badge, R. J. Steel 230</li> <li>5. Badge A.P.R.A. H. A. Carruthers 221</li> <li>6. " " W. Williamson... 217</li> <li>7. " " E. A. Griffith... 215</li> <li>8. " " Capt. Harris... { 213</li> <li>9. " " A. E. Forget... { 213</li> </ol> <p>THE FURNEY AGGREGATE.</p> <p>The totals in matches Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6 &amp; 8.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Case fruit knives, A. E. Forget... 249</li> <li>2. Moersham Pipe and case, J. W. Jowett..... 231</li> <li>3. Gold Albert, J. T. Steinhorn.... 230</li> <li>4. Silver butter dish, Dr. Willoughby. 209</li> <li>5. Badge, Jno. Carson... 201</li> <li>6. " E. Varder..... 198</li> <li>7. " O. Walsh..... 181</li> </ol> <p>THE MACKY AGGREGATE.</p>	<p>ertain or who boards when know comfo point manag always his pr their would years views long d best fi ture. would has a the li There globe health have l where of win and th</p>
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1890 – Oct. 14 – Regina Evening Leader – Indian Head Fair – Major Bell's prizes

**INDIAN HEAD SHOW.**

The Agricultural Society held their annual meeting on Thursday, and taking into consideration the bad state of the roads owing to the heavy rains the committee are to be congratulated on the results. The classes for horses were well contested, the quality of most of the exhibits being of the very best. The number of cattle shown was small but the quality good. Especial notice should be taken of a five month old calf, a pure bred polled Angus, shown by Mr. T. Skinner. Sheep and pigs were very good but the poultry classes were a failure. The exhibition of roots, vegetables, grain, etc., was held in the town hall and was very creditable. The Indian department was extra good, Agent Grant being well to the front in the quality of the various exhibits of the Indians under his charge. The ladies department brought out some very fine specimens of fancy work and competition was strong in most classes. Butter, vegetables and roots were of A. 1 quality. The exhibit of the Experimental Farm was a great credit to the manager and his assistants. The arrangement of the splendid varieties was very good and ornamental.

The principle prizes in the classes for horses were won as follows :

Best blood stallion (with registered pedigree)—1 Major Bell.

Best heavy draught stallion, with registered pedigree —1 Graham & Glenn.

Best heavy draught brood mare, with registered pedigree.—1 Major Bell.

Best heavy draught stallion, not thoroughbred. —1 T Skinner.

Best heavy draught team, not less than 2800. —1 The C.C.C. Co.

Best heavy draught filly or gelding, 2 years.—1 R McLean.

Best heavy draught filly or gelding, 1 year old.—W. Williamson.

Best colt of 1890, sired by "McGregor Boy," special by J Glenn, \$15.00.—1 R Morrison.

Best general purpose stallion.—1 R Graham.

Best general purpose team.—1 The C.C.C. Co.

Best pair carriage horses in harness.—C Bonestell.

Best single horse in harness.—1 R Todd.

Best saddle horse.—1 J Love.

Best pony under 14½ hands.—1 W R Boyd.

Best rider, special by G P Murray. —1 Miss Cameron.



1890 – Oct. 23 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

"Local Happenings (**Fort Qu'Appelle**) . . . Major Bell met with a terrible misfortune on Tuesday, in the matter of the loss by fire of one of his barns and contents – about 2,000 bushels of grain it is said."

1890 – Oct. 24 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript)

"Indian Head . . . Seventh annual agricultural exhibition" Marg: **Winners include "horses – bloods – stallion WR Bell, J. Glenn (protested)" Brood mare, WR Bell; Team, CCC Co, WR Bell.**

1890 – Oct. 25 – *Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 1 – Bell Farm fire burns crops while threshing

"Three thousand bushels of wheat were burned at the Bell farm on Tuesday. The fire was caused by sparks from threshing."

1890 - Nov 26 1890 WFP

"Major Bell intends visiting Monte Carlo this winter where he made such a successful shoot in the International pigeon match last year losing the Grand prize by his last bird dying within a few feet just outside of the limits. "

1890 – Dec. 16 – *Regina Leader*

The *Leader* of 16 December 1890 had reported: "Mr. Wm. Crispin from Barrie Ont. who has been managing the Bell Farm for Major Bell called on the LEADER a few days ago. He is much pleased with the appearance of the Regina district, especially with the Qu'Appelle Valley, which he was shown by Mr. J. W. Young last week. He will remain here and probably start a ranch. He has entered for land." - Source: John Sled: Lumsden Snapshots, 2017 edition, p. 298

1890 – Dec 23 – *Regina Leader* – p. 8 – Twenty carloads of wheat sold

"The first train load of twenty cars of the Bell Farm wheat left Indian Head on Friday."

1890 – Dec., 25 – Report of G.H. Campbell, on the Delegates Tour to Canada, including the Bell Farm

p. 101 – date and list of delegates

next day Major Stevenson arrived, thus completing the party of thirteen in all. The following are the names and addresses of the party:—	
John T. Wood, Halewood, Lancashire, England.	
Wm. Scotson, Mosley Hill, Liverpool	do
H. Simmons, Reading, London	do
R. Pitt, Ilminster, Somersetshire	do
Geo. Daniels, Norfolk	do
Geo. Hutchinson, Penrith, Cumberland	do
Col. F. Fane, Fulbeck, Lincolnshire	do
Wm. Edwards, Bathvin, Wales	
John Spier, Newton, Glasgow, Scotland.	
Geo. Brown, Caithness	do
Major D. W. Stevenson, Londonderry, Ireland.	
E. R. Murphy, Tralee	do
P. Foursin, Paris,	France.

been there some 21 years, I believe, and has a very fine farm. We left Portage la Prairie that evening (Messrs. Searth and Eden having gone to Winnipeg, and Mr. Daly to Brandon), and next morning we arrived at Indian Head, and were met by Mr. McKay, Superintendent of the Experimental Farm, and Major Bell, of the famous Bell Farm. The day being wet prevented our doing full justice to Indian Head, although we drove over the Government farm, and part of the Bell farm. Both Mr. McKay and Major Bell did all they could for us while there, and Mrs. McKay in her own inimitable style, furnished us with an excellent lunch. We left Indian Head that night by freight train, and went on to Regina, where we stayed for the night; and Saturday morning at seven o'clock started for Prince Albert, on the new line of railway just opened. Mr. N. F. Davin, M.P., and editor of the Regina *Leader* accompanied us. We arrived in Prince Albert Saturday night, or rather at three

100 kb

# 1891

1891 – Jan. 14 – Winnipeg Free Press: - Major and Mrs. Bell sick while visiting Winnipeg.

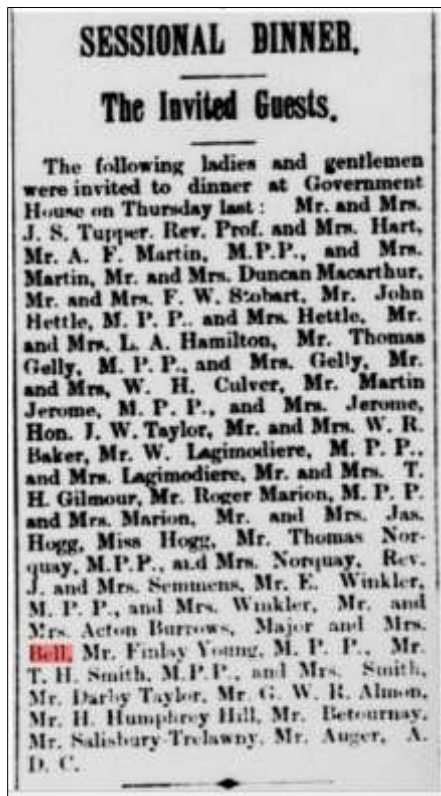
"Major and Mrs Bell of Indian Head have been at the Queen's for some weeks, both being very ill. The major is able to get around for a little while each day, but Mrs Bell unfortunately is confined to her room."

1891 – Jan. 22 – Qu'Appelle Progress (Marg's transcript)

(Jan. 22, 1891 “present proprietors of The Progress ... will in future conduct the business recently carried on by the late proprietor . . .” [March: Politics, support the present Federal Administration. Owner G.S. Davidson, MLA. The former statement on the masthead about supporting prohibition is gone](#))

The Western World	January 1891	p. 9, 10 & 11	“The District of South Qu’Appelle” – by G.S. Davidson, M.L.A. – illustrations of Bell Farm work and section on the Bell Farm (p. 10 far right column & p. 11 far left column) – <a href="#">very extensive report</a> – also refers to breeding <a href="#">Clydesdale horses</a> – <a href="#">need to rescan, poor copy</a>
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1891 – April 9 – *Brandon Mail*, p. 2 – Bells at Sessional Dinner, Winnipeg – probably Major Bell from Indian Head, but might refer to another Major and Mrs. Bell.



104 kb

1891 – May – Indian Head Presbyterian Church - Communion Register – Mrs. Bell



1891 – May – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
297	May 26, 1891	R. <i>Auzias-Tureme</i>	Grenoble (France)	

1891 - Chief Cegakin (Carry The Kettle)

Relocates band to Indian Head area from Cypress Hills (Source:

<http://www.sicc.sk.ca/archive/bands/bcarry1.html>





In 1903, Knechtel reported this anecdote from his 1891 trip:

Mr. KNECHTEL.—I have been intensely interested in these papers and I am very glad to know that the work of planting shelter belts in the North-west has been attended with such satisfactory results. I remember travelling through Manitoba and the North-west Territories a few years ago before this planting had begun. I was at the Experimental Farm at Indian Head and visited also the Experimental Farm at

*CANADIAN FORESTRY ASSOCIATION*

71

Brandon. Now, when I was at Indian Head Mr. McKay showed me where he had planted some seeds in front of his house and then he took me round the pond and he showed me where the seeds had begun to grow on the other side of the pond. The wind had blown the seeds out and had carried them across the pond.

I was at the hotel in Regina. Major Bell came down there one morning and he said to the hotel keeper: 'I have some more land.' 'Well,' the hotel keeper said, 'I should think that a man with 4,000 acres had enough.' Major Bell said: 'I could not help getting this land because there was a high wind last night and it blew the Experimental Farm over to my property.' The hotel keeper said: 'Are you going to keep it?' 'No,' replied Major Bell; 'the wind may change to-night and blow it all back.'

Source: Report on the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Canadian Forestry Association, 1904.  
By A.C. Knechtel, of Albany, New York (Forest, Fish & Game Commission)

1891 – July 2 – Qu'Appelle Progress (extracts)

**Marg:** Annual Meeting of the Central Liberal-Conservative Association at the Immigration Building in Qu'Appelle.

"The following is a list of the officers elected for the ensuing year: **President: Major Bell, Indian Head...**"

Later:

"The toast of 'army, navy and volunteers' was proposed coupled with which were the names of Major Bell and Mr. R.S. Lake.

Major Bell, in response, said he did not suppose there was a town in Canada that could boast so much of supporting volunteers and giving them an opportunity of distinguishing themselves as the little town of Qu'Appelle. From personal experience he could say that no men behaved themselves better than the Canadian volunteers in 1885."

Later:

"Mar. Daniel ... Major Bell... all spoke to the very satisfactory manner in which they had been entertained and the sumptuous fare provided." (Convention was held at the Queen's Hotel, Qu'Appelle)

Later:

“Major Bell proposed the toast of ‘The Conservative Association of Qu’Appelle’, which was replied to by Mr. McLane.”

1891 – July 2 – Qu’Appelle Vidette – (extract)

“INDIAN HEAD - The crops in this vicinity are everything that could be desired. Both Major Bell and Mr. W.B. Shephard report the grain in excellent condition. The heavy showers of the past two weeks have done wonders, consequently, everybody is in the best of spirits.”

1891 – July 9 – Qu’Appelle Progress (Marg’s transcript)

“A building boom has struck Indian Head. Mr. Osment is building a large warehouse and Mr. Conn a carpenter’s shop on Grand Avenue. “

1891 – July 14 – Regina Leader – p. 4 – Bell Farm crop report

“BELL FARM CROPS. Major Bell has, with his well-known energy and enterprise, again put in an immense area of grain – principally wheat – on the Bell Farm at Indian Head. He has a total of 2,200 acres under as fine a crop as a man has ever set eyes on. With the exception of a small field of 300 acres which was slightly “hailed” by one of the very uncommon storms of the present season, the whole twenty-two hundred acres look in magnificent condition, and barring accidents the Major will most certainly have a fat harvest.”

1891 – July 30 – Qu’Appelle Vidette – excavation for new grain elevator - DELETE ???????

“LOCAL HAPPENINGS – Excavations for the new elevator, adjoining the mill, were commenced on Thursday last.” (Where – Fort Qu’Appelle, Qu’Appelle, or Indian Head?) - – check elsewhere for details More in August 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> edition – probably Fort Qu’Appelle based on other text – such as Qu’Appelle Valley Hotel, in Fort Qu’Appelle.

1891 – Aug. 13 – Qu’Appelle Vidette –

Mr. Wesbrooks, of Winnipeg - Tour of crops in Qu’Appelle District – (FRANK: likely included Bell Farm.)

“INDIAN HEAD. Mr. Wesbrooks, of Winnipeg, who was in town a few days since and who travelled through the Qu’Appelle district, stated that the outlook for a bountiful harvest was very gratifying and far exceeded his most sanguine expectations.”

1891 – Aug. 13 - Northern Advance, Barrie, Ont. p. 1 – Jack McKee, Bell’s nephew, visits Bell Farm

“Jack McKee this week started for the Northwest to reside with his aunt Mrs. Bell on the Bell Farm.”

1891 – Aug 21 - Qu’Appelle Vidette - – check for details – no issue for that date, maybe Progress?

1891 – Aug. 22 – *Sessional Paper* 1892– No. 7f, Vol. 6, p. 7f-53 – Annual Inspection of Experimental Farms by Wm Saunders, Director of Dominion Experimental Farms.

“On the 22<sup>nd</sup> some of the neighbouring farms were visited and the crops examined. Several miles of luxuriant whet fields were seen on the Bell Farm and on the recently established farm

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of Lord Brassey. The crops of many smaller places were also inspected. Everywhere the wheat looked well, and the growth was luxuriant, but it was noticed here as well as in Manitoba, that wheat on summer fallow where the land was heavy and had been well farmed was much later than that growing on lighter and poorly worked soil. This was a result of the unusual rainfall, and should not lessen the confidence in summer fallowing, as such conditions may not occur again to the same extent for years.”

1891 – Aug. 27 – *Qu’Appelle Progress* (Marg’s transcript)

“Mr. Roderick McKinnon sued Major Bell on Thursday last under the Master and Servant Act, for wages claimed. The case was tried before James Harvey JP. Mr. AD Dickson appeared for Mr. Bell. Case dismissed.

1891 – Sept 1 – *Regina Leader* – **check for details** – unable to find in this newspaper

1891 – Sept 17 - *Qu’Appelle Vidette* - Tanner and Sheppard at Indian Head and Qu’Appelle Valley Hotel

“Prof. Tanner, and Mr. Sheppard, manager of the Brassey Farm, were in town on Tuesday, and report crop prospects as being way beyond their highest expectations on the Farm, and also all through the country they travelled.”

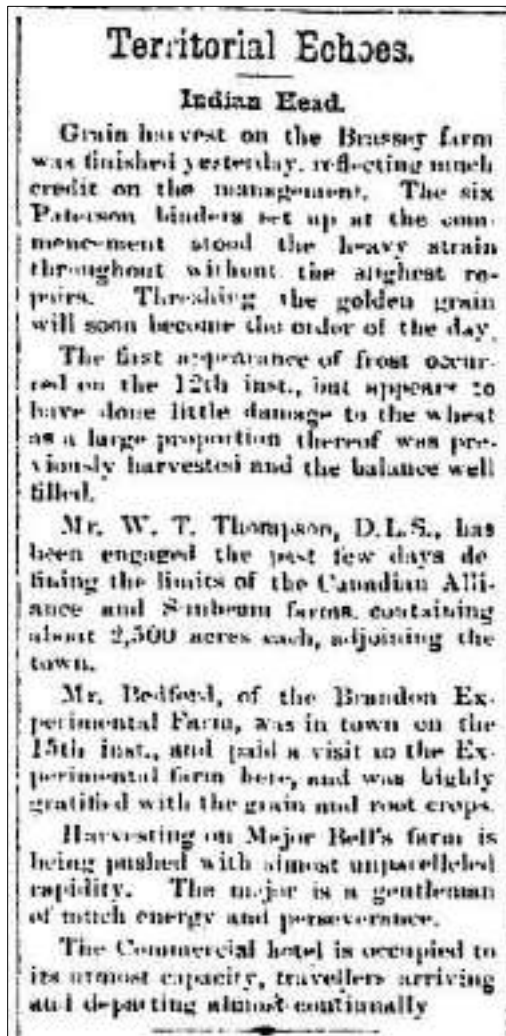
AND

“The following are among the arrivals at the Qu’Appelle Valley Hotel during the past week: . . . W.B. Sheppard, Indian Head; Prof. Tanner, England; . . .” [Frank’s Note: [this hotel is located in Fort Qu’Appelle](#)]

1891 – 17 Sept – *Qu’Appelle Vidette* – Bell Farm Flour Mill idle since 1886

“**INDIAN HEAD:** A large and influential meeting of the citizens was held last evening for the purpose of restarting the flour mill, which has lain idle since 1886, and has thereby caused much inconvenience and annoyance to this locality. The cutting being now nearly completed, and with almost 400,000 bushels of No. 1 hard wheat in sight, the people here are determined to have the mill running once more. Judging by the opinion expressed by the various speakers last evening there is little doubt that the 1<sup>st</sup> of December will see the mill working full time. The proposal laid before the meeting by one of the most popular millers of the Northwest was most favourably received and the local committee in whose hands rest the carrying out of all arrangements are confident of bringing them to a successful issue.”

1891 – Sept. 24 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* – Harvest on Brassey and Bell Farms; and Surveying at Brassey lands



1891 – Oct 1 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* – Bell to sell Flour Mill for \$2,500

“Messrs. Benson and George, of this place, have made arrangements where they, with the assistance of a \_\_\_\_\_ of some \$2,500 from farmers in the Indian Head Municipality, will take over the Indian Head Mill, having secured that institution for a merely nominal price from Major Bell.” [\[Frank's Note: J. Benson is the miller in Qu'Appelle.\]](#)

1891 – October – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
298	Oct. 22, 1891	A.S. ????	Regina	Saskatchewan

1891 – Supreme Court of the NWT – Law Suits

SAB File	Microfiche Box Reference	District Court / Supreme Court of NWT	Conflicting Parties	Year(s)	Comments
2018	L 05	SCNWT 184/91	G. Mclvov Vs. W.R. Bell	1891	

1891 – Nov. 3 – *Regina Leader*, p. 1 – Bell Farm harvest report

“Major Bell finished stacking his grain on the 24<sup>th</sup> and began threshing with two steam threshers on the 26<sup>th</sup> inst. The Major is a paragon of energy, perseverance, and discipline.”

1891 – Nov. 19 – *Qu’Appelle Progress* (Marg’s transcript)

“Indian Head . . . Major Bell reports his wheat yield far above his most sanguine expectations.

“Mrs. Patterson, mother of Mr. Patterson, foreman on the Bell Farm, was buried yesterday.”

1891 – Dec. 1 - *Northern Advance*, Barrie Ont. p. 8 – The Bell’s nephew returns to Ontario

“Mr. Jack McKee, who has been on the Bell Farm in the Northwest during the summer, has returned home for a visit of some weeks.”

1891 –

Major Bell wins second prize - Gov. General bronze medal - at competition

# 1892

1892 – Feb. 25 – *Qu’Appelle Progress* (Marg’s transcript)

“Indian Head . . . Mr. Osment is removing into his new store, which when finished will be one of the finest buildings in the North-West.”

1892 – 1 March – *Annual Report for the Toronto Home for the Incurables*, p. 37-38 – Collected by Misses Kendrick and Skae - Donation by Mrs. Bell (This is presumed to be Major Bell's wife Katherine.)

Mrs. Harris . . . . .	1 00	Mrs. J. Downey . . . . .	1 00
Mrs. R. S. Baird . . . . .	1 00	Mrs. Wm. Goulding . . . . .	1 00
Mrs. Bell (Indian Head) . . . . .	1 00	Mrs. Bonnell . . . . .	1 00
Miss Watson . . . . .	1 00	Mrs. Gregg . . . . .	1 00
Miss Lakey . . . . .	1 00	Mrs. Mitchell . . . . .	1 00

1892 – March 17 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript)

"Indian Head . . Major Bell's new boiler has arrived and workmen are now busy placing it in its position in the boiler house. The Major expects to have the mill running in full swing by the latter end of next week.

"Mr. Osment has just received a carload of furniture. He is now using his old store for that department alone."

1892 – April 4 – *Regina Leader*, p. 4 – Bell to start seeding

"**Bell Farm Seeding:** Major Bell, whom we met on Monday last week, said he intended to commence seeding the following morning. He will put in a large acreage. He has yet six week's threshing to do, but all his stacks are in excellent condition and well protected."

1892 – April 7 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

Indian Head. Citizen's ball. String band by permission of Commission Herchmer. A first for Indian Head.

"Much credit is due to M. A.J. Osment, chairman of the committee, for the success of the entertainment. April 2, 1892."

1892 – April 25 – *Regina Leader*, p. 1 – Major Bell on Rifle Association Council

1892 – April 28 – *Brandon Mail*, p. 2 – Tanner and Bell – possible sale of farm to Brassey

"**The Brassey Farms** - In reference to the report of the sale of Major Bell's large farm to the company Professor Tanner would only allow that there have been certain negotiations – Free Press."

1892 – Spring - William Mooney plows Bell Farm land – (reported in Regina Leader-Post, 26 Feb, 1955)

"William Mooney was born on a 100 acre bush farm in Huron County, Ontario, in 1871. He first came west on a harvest train in 1889. He was impressed with the west, but was unable to remain permanently until 1892 when he arrived at Indian Head with a team of horses, a little furniture and enough lumber to build a 12 x 18 shack. He plowed for a month on the





407 kb

Price House, near Moosomin

1892 – July 1 – Annual Report for dept. of the Interior, Part 3, p. 6. Appointment of new Justices of the Peace

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, PART III.

38. An Ordinance for granting to the Lieutenant-Governor certain sums of money to defray the expenses of the public service of the Territories for the seven months ending 31st July, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three, and for other purposes relating thereto.

APPOINTMENTS.

On the 1st July last, having considered it advisable to revise the existing list of Justices of the Peace in the North-West Territories, I cancelled all appointments of Justices of the Peace made in the Territories previous to 1st July 1891, excepting those Magistrates who on that date were residing outside the electoral districts mentioned in the schedule to chapter 22, Victoria 54-55, and the inspectors of the North-West Mounted Police Force. New commissions of the peace were issued on the same date to the Magistrates who were re-appointed, and additional appointments have since been made from time to time.

The following is a complete list of the Territorial appointments made since my last report —

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.		
Name.	Residence.	Address.
Henry Lafontaine.....	Regina,	Assiniboia.
Hayter Reed.....	do	do
Edwin Watson.....	do	do
Richard Henry Williams.....	do	do
John Henry Charles Willoughby.....	do	do
Henry Willis Aylmerworth.....	Pasco	do
Charles Bengtsson.....	Silton	do
Edward Carr.....	Carletonplace	do
Matthew Henderson.....	Wascana	do
Thomas Edward Anderson.....	Lougakoton	do
Henry Cyril Lawson.....	Cruxton	do
Anthony Neville.....	Wascana	do
Robert Lowry Alexander.....	Moose Jaw	do
Seymour Noel de Puisange Green.....	do	do

Seymour Noel de Puisange Green.....	do	do
Hugh Cherry Gilmour.....	do	do
Henry Dorrell.....	do	do
John James Porter.....	Boharm	do
John George Gagen.....	Dundurn	do
Thomas D. Watson.....	Moose Jaw	do
Lawrence King.....	do	do
William Carter Sander.....	do	do
Jean Louis Legare.....	Willow Bunch	do
William Thomas Finlay.....	Medicine Hat	do
John H. Kern.....	Dunmore	do
John Dickson.....	Maple Creek	do
Noel McDonald.....	Swift Current	do
Asa M. McLane.....	Qu'Appelle Station	do
Joseph P. Beauchamp.....	do	do
Hartley Gisborne.....	do	do
Walter Byard Sheppard.....	do	do
John Robert Simon North.....	Edgely Farm	do
William Robert Bell.....	Indian Head	do
Frederick Stephen Proctor.....	Fort Qu'Appelle	do
Henry Hawksworth Hayward.....	Hayward	do
Harold J. Bonnyeastle.....	Katepew	do
John Redpath.....	Parklands	do
Joseph Hollis.....	Katwaa	do
Louis Couture.....	Touchwood Hills	do
Joshua Milligan.....	Wishart	do



1892 – July 14, 21 and Aug 4 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 4 – advertisement for Bell Farm Mill

**FLOUR.**

The **Bell Farm**  
**ROLLER MILLS**

Is offering  
*Flour in lots of 10 Bags*

And upwards at  
THE MILL INDIAN HEAD,

At the following prices:

Patent Process.	. \$1.80 per Bag
First Quality Strong Bakers . . .	1.60 ..
Second Quality Strong Bakers . . .	1.40 ..
XXX . . .	90 ..

**W. R. BELL.**  
Proprietor.

61 kb

1892 – July 21 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript)

“Major Bell had the misfortune on Thursday evening to sprain his ankle, and is now laid up at the Manitoba Hotel, Winnipeg. He will probably be confined to his room for some time.”

1892 – 21 July and Aug 4 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 4 – ad for lost or stolen horse from Bell Farm; and Edgeley Farm hay

**HAY.**

**W**ANTED, parties to PUT UP HAY  
on shares or by the ton.  
Apply to W. CAMERON,  
38-40 Edgeley Farm.

**NOTICE.**

**S**TRAYED or Stolen from the **Bell Farm**,  
Indian Head, last fall, dark brown  
porgy HILLY, two years old this spring,  
white blaze on face, one hind foot white to  
ankle, about 14 or 15 hands high, no brands.  
Any person giving information that will  
lead to the recovery of the above will be  
suitably rewarded. Any person retaining  
the above after this will be prosecuted to the  
fullest extent of the law.  
38-41 W. R. BELL.

41 kb

## 1892 – Summer – new Brassey Stone Barn at the Sunbeam Farm

William M. Elkington treks across the Bell Farm while working on construction of the Lord Brassey's Sunbeam stone barn, SW of Indian Head; paid \$1.75 per day to help the contractor – to help keep the various stonemasons supplied with stones, break stones and carry mortar. (Source: *Five Years in Canada*, by W.M. Elkington, 1895, p. 98-99,)

## 1892 – July – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
299	July 1892	P.R. Ritchie	Ongar, Essex	England

## 1892 – July - Visit from Peter R. Ritchie:

BRANDON.

I left Winnipeg on the 29th April for Vancouver, on the Pacific coast, breaking my journey at Brandon, Moosomin, Indian Head, Medicine Hat and Calgary, long enough to make me acquainted with these localities, for it was my intention to thoroughly inspect the country on my return trip. While at Brandon I visited the experimental farm, where by that date they had already got most of their seeding done. At Mr. Sandison's gigantic grain farm, 3,000 acres in crop, they were sowing Red Pye wheat, of a grade known as No. 2, regular, with two Gatling gun seeders. The grain was being sown broadcast on wheat stubble and being ploughed in. At the Brassey Colonization Company's farms at Indian Head they were seeding with six press drills on land where the stubble had

46 kb

REPORT OF MR. P. R. RITCHIE. 9

been burned off. Here also, Major Bell, another very large grain grower, had six press drills at work, three horses on each, sowing wheat on fallow land. A section of land (640 acres) which had been sown on the Bell farm three weeks previously, was just beginning to show the green grain. A few miles west of Medicine Hat natural gas has been discovered while digging for water. This was being burned by a pipe straight out of the ground.

THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS AND THE PACIFIC SLOPE.

31 kb

## INDIAN HEAD.

From Qu'Appelle Mr. Redpath, one of the solicitors of the town, drove me across country to Indian Head, where I visited the Government experimental farm and the Brassey and Bell farms, for the second time. At the experimental farm windstorms had interfered very much with the experiments. The soil is so fine that it is blown all over the place, uncovering the seed in some instances, and in others mixing them with those on neighbouring plots. This drawback Mr. Angus McKay, the manager, soon expects to conquer, as the belts of young trees which have been planted and sown round the farm are growing rapidly, and in two or three years will afford complete shelter. The growing of these belts of timber throughout the prairie cannot be too much encouraged. Besides taking away the bleak appearance of some parts, they will help materially to equalize the climate. From the Brandon experimental farm this spring 50,000 young trees were distributed to farmers throughout the country in lots of 100.

67 kb

## REPORT OF MR. P. H. BECHTOLD.

27

Lord Brassey is the owner of a large tract of land round Indian Head. This estate was bought from the Bell Farming Company when it dissolved. It has been divided into four separate farms of 2,500 acres each, and farmed by four different companies with separate corporations. Lord Brassey's object is that these companies, who have considerable capital, should provide employment for labourers coming into the country. On the Canadian Alliance Company's farm, over which I went, there were 1,000 acres of wheat, 200 of oats, and 100 of barley, in cultivation. The buildings, which were just being completed, consist of a 24-stall stable with large lofts and granaries, and a house for the manager and men. They have a stock of splendid Clyde mares and a well-bred stud horse. This year they were breaking 1,000 acres more. It is intended that the other three farms shall be worked on the same scale.

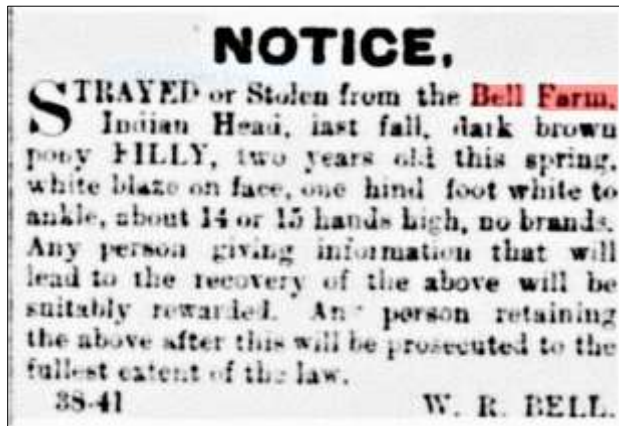
It was much against Major Bell's wish that the Bell Farm broke up when it did. He was anxious that the company should keep on for another year, and had they done so, the famous Bell Farm, once the largest in the world, would probably have been in existence in its integrity to-day. When the company sold out, the Major, who had confidence in the North-west, bought up the buildings and some thousands of acres of the land. Ever since he has been reaping a good return. This year he had 2,000 acres in crop—1,500 in wheat and 500 in oats. His lot of thirty Clyde mares were the best I saw in the Territories.

WHITWOOD.

98 kb

1892 – Aug. 1 – *Regina Leader* – [check for details](#) - can't find article in this issue

1892 – Aug. 4 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 4 – Bell advertises for Lost or Stolen horse



104 kb

1892 – Aug. 11 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript)

Marg: Indian Head Agricultural Fair: WR Bell took first place for his 'blood horse' stallion and his heavy draft horse. Lots of references to prizes to "W.R. Bell" but not sure if this is Major Bell or someone else)

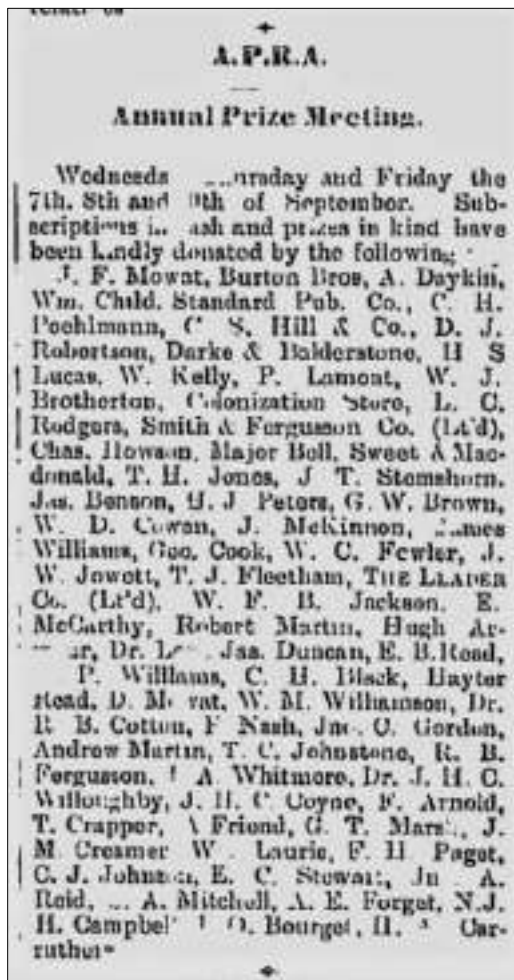
1892 – Aug. 23 – *Sessional Papers 1893* : Vol. 19, No. 14, p. 14-148 - Indian Agent (J.B. Lash) Report, Muscowpetung Agency – Standing Buffalo workers paid \$1,600

"The Sioux (Standing Buffalo's Band) have been placed on their own resources and have made a very comfort able living; their crops were good and outside work plentiful; during the harvest season they received for work at the Bell Farm, \$1,600."

1892 – Aug. 25 – *Brandon Mail*, p. 8 – possibly donated by Major Bell???

"Lieut. Shillinglaw and Mr. Arthur Fleming, left for Ottawa on Monday morning express to attend the Dominion Rifle March. Lieut. Shillinglaw is the present holder of the "Bell Cup" – the Manitoba trophy.

1892 – Sept 5 - *Regina Evening Leader*, p. 8 – A.P.R.A. Annual Prize Meeting – Major Bell among donors



125 kb

1892 – Sept. 15 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript)

“Messrs Joshua Thompson and Harry Gibberish of Indian Head were charged by Mr. WB Sheppard (manager of the Alliance Farm) on Sept 8 with stealing two sheaves of wheat from Major Bell’s field.” Tried before Magistrates Thompson and Boyce. Acquitted. Evidence showed that two parties had an argument about the quality of the grain and secured two sheaves to settle the dispute. Mr. Wm Smith for the defence.

1892 – Supreme Court of the NWT – Law Suits

SAB File	Microfiche Box Reference	District Court / Supreme Court of NWT	Conflicting Parties	Year(s)	Comments
2385	N 09	SCNWT 228/92	J.A. & M. Cote Vs. A.J. Osment	1892	

1892 – Oct. 27 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 4 – Major Bell at Indian Head Rifle Assoc shooting meet

First annual meeting of the Indian Head Rifle Association held Oct. 12 and 13.

INDIAN HEAD RIFLE ASSOCIATION.		Match No. 2—President and Vice-President's Match. 200, 500 and 600 yards.		Match No. 3—Hotel Keepers. 500 and 600 yards.		Match No. 5—Association Handicap. 400 and 500 yards.	
The first annual meeting of the Indian Head Rifle Association was held at the range on Wednesday and Thursday, 12th and 13th, rifle-men from Regina, Moosomin, Qu'Appelle and other neighboring towns participating. The weather, although threatening for some days previous, turned out fine, with the exception of high winds, which doubtless reduced the scores. The meeting was opened by Mrs. Major Bell, and was conducted throughout in a manner which gave the utmost satisfaction. Major Bell acted as range officer, and from his promptitude and decisiveness, coupled with his affable manner when among the boys, rendered the meeting a decided success. The association purpose improving the range and getting it in shape to make their meeting next year equal to if not greater than this, and hope to have all who took part this year to meet again in friendly rivalry on the range, besides many others. Below is a list of the prize winners with the scores.		R. Sweet, Regina 72		R. Sweet, Regina 53		1st, J. B. Swift, Indian Head.	
		J. Hewgill, Moosomin 71		W. R. Bell, Indian Head 52		2nd, J. Carson, Moosomin.	
		J. Carson, Moosomin 70		Capt. Harris, Moosomin 47		3rd, Dr. Keown, Moosomin.	
		W. R. Bell, Indian Head 69		J. Carson, Moosomin 46		4th, D. Hewgill, Moosomin.	
		Capt. Harris, Moosomin 68		J. Hewgill, Moosomin 45		5th, R. Sweet, Regina.	
		J. B. Swift, Indian Head 61		S. R. Edwards, Qu'Appelle 42		6th, Capt. Harris, Moosomin.	
		Jas. McNaughton, Qu'Appelle 59		Dr. Keown, Moosomin 34		7th, J. McNaughton, Qu'Appelle.	
		Dr. Keown, Moosomin 58		Match No. 4—Municipality or Association Match. 200 and 400 yards.		8th, J. Hewgill, Moosomin.	
		S. R. Edwards, Qu'Appelle 58		Indian Head :		Match No. 7—Grand Aggregate.	
		D. Hewgill, Moosomin 55		W. R. Bell 159		1st, R. Sweet, Regina.	
		A. McKinnon, Regina 50		S. R. Edwards 159		2nd, W. R. Bell, Indian Head.	
		Match No. 3—Hotel Keepers. 500 and 600 yards.		J. B. Swift 159		3rd, J. Carson, Moosomin.	
		R. Sweet, Regina 53		Moosomin :		4th, J. Hewgill, Moosomin.	
		W. R. Bell, Indian Head 52		Capt. Harris 157		5th, Capt. Harris, Moosomin.	
		Capt. Harris, Moosomin 47		J. Hewgill 157		Match No. 8—Tyro Aggregate.	
		J. Carson, Moosomin 46		J. Carson 157		1st, D. Hewgill, Moosomin.	
		J. Hewgill, Moosomin 45		Regina and Moosomin :		2nd, D. G. McKay, Indian Head.	
		S. R. Edwards, Qu'Appelle 42		R. Sweet 156		3rd, A. McKinnon, Regina.	
		Dr. Keown, Moosomin 34		Dr. Keown 156		4th, W. M. Crawford, Indian Head.	
		Match No. 4—Municipality or Association Match. 200 and 400 yards.		D. Hewgill 156		5th, Jas. Brooks, Indian Head.	
		Indian Head :					
		W. R. Bell 159					
		S. R. Edwards 159					
		J. B. Swift 159					
		Moosomin :					
		Capt. Harris 157					
		J. Hewgill 157					
		J. Carson 157					
		Regina and Moosomin :					
		R. Sweet 156					
		Dr. Keown 156					
		D. Hewgill 156					
		Match No. 5—Association Handicap. 400 and 500 yards.					
		1st, J. B. Swift, Indian Head.					
		2nd, J. Carson, Moosomin.					
		3rd, Dr. Keown, Moosomin.					
		4th, D. Hewgill, Moosomin.					
		5th, R. Sweet, Regina.					
		6th, Capt. Harris, Moosomin.					
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421 kb

380 kb

271 kb

1892 – Oct. 27 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

“Local Happenings (in Fort Qu'Appelle): Major Bell was here on a shooting expedition beginning of the week.”

1892 – Oct. 27 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 4 (Marg's transcript)

“Major Bell of Indian Head was in town on Friday last.”

1892 – Oct. 31 – *Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 1 – Major Bell to run in election

“The writ has been issued for the East Assiniboia election, which will take place on November 28<sup>th</sup>. Major Bell says he will run as the Tory candidate.”

1892 – 1 Nov. – *Victoria Daily Colonist*: p. 1

<http://archive.org/stream/dailycolonist18921101uvic/18921101#page/n0/mode/1up/search/indian+head>

“Politics in Manitoba. – Winnipeg, Oct. 31. It is reported that ex-Attorney-General Martin will oppose Hon. Mr. Daly in Selkirk, although sections of the Liberals do not favour any opposition. R. Daly arrives here to morrow. **Major Bell**, of Indian Head, will probably be the conservative candidate for East Assiniboia.”

1892 – Nov 3 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* - Chesterton's painting of Brassey townsite, for Tanner

“**BRASSEY, N.W.T.** The *Free Press* says W. Chesterton, architect of this city, has prepared for Professor Tanner, general manager of the Brassey farms, a bird's eye view of Brassey, which it is the intention of the directors to build, south of the C.P.R. track opposite the village of Indian Head. The proposed town is to be beautifully laid out and, \_\_\_\_\_ the buildings proposed are a church, parsonage, and hospital, fine stores and business blocks, and several rows of houses and cottages for those employed on the estate. The picture is an imposing one, representing as it does a model little town. In the background lie some of the cultivated lands of the company.

[Frank's Note: painting might include the Bell Farm in the background.]

1892 – Nov. 17 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* p. 1 – Bell runs in East Assiniboia Nominating Convention

**CONVENTION AT GRENFELL**  
The meeting at Grenfell on Saturday last of the delegates from the various Liberal-Conservative Associations to select a candidate to represent Eastern Assiniboia in the House of Commons in place of Mr. Dewdney was quite an event in the history of the town.  
A week previous, each association had determined on the number of delegates to be sent to Grenfell as representatives. Qu'Appelle chose 12, Fort Qu'Appelle 10, Indian Head 15, Touchwood 3, Wolseley 5, Grenfell 17, Broadview 6, Wapella 4, Whitewood 10, Moosomin 15, Cannington Manor 2, Fleming 6, Estevan 5.  
Those appointed to attend from Qu'Appelle were Dr. Bell (president of the association), A. E. Whiffin, R. J. Molloy, J. P. Beauchamp, A. Gray, A. M. McLane, J. A. Cowan, S. R. Edwards, A. Raymond, J. H. Fraser, J. B. Davis.  
The proceedings of the convention were of an interesting character.

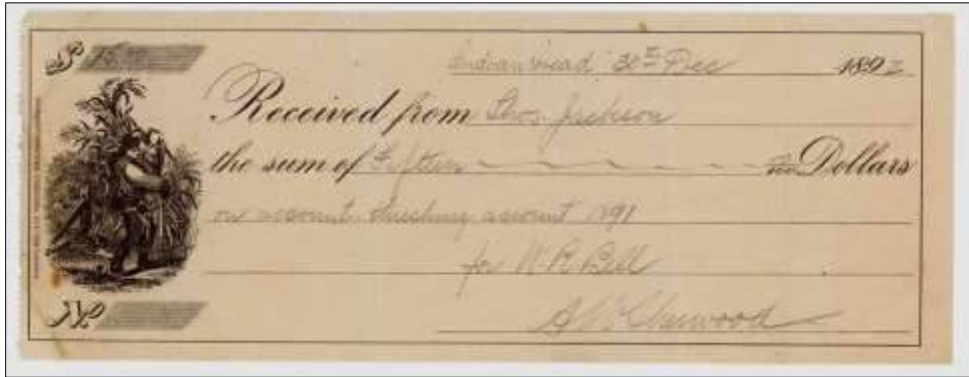
There were 113 delegates present, and Mr. I. R. Brigham, of Moosomin, presided over the meeting. The first business was the appointment of committee on credentials. The following were proposed as candidates: Mr. W. W. McDonald, of Fleming; Mr. Paterson, Qu'Appelle; Major Bell, Indian Head; Mr. Thornburn, Broadview; Mr. Richardson, Grenfell; Mr. Hawkes, Whitewood. Mr. E. P. Leacock, of Estevan, in an eloquent speech said that, owing to holding a position under the C.P.R., he was compelled to withhold his name from the convention. The candidates were each allowed ten minutes in which to address the meeting and express their views on the various questions of moment. The balloting was then proceeded with, and the names of the candidates were gradually dropped till at the fifth ballot the choice laid between Major Bell and Mr. McDonald, and the last named gentleman came off victorious. It was afterwards moved, seconded by Major Bell, and carried that Mr. McDonald be the unanimous choice of the convention.

211 kb

233 kb

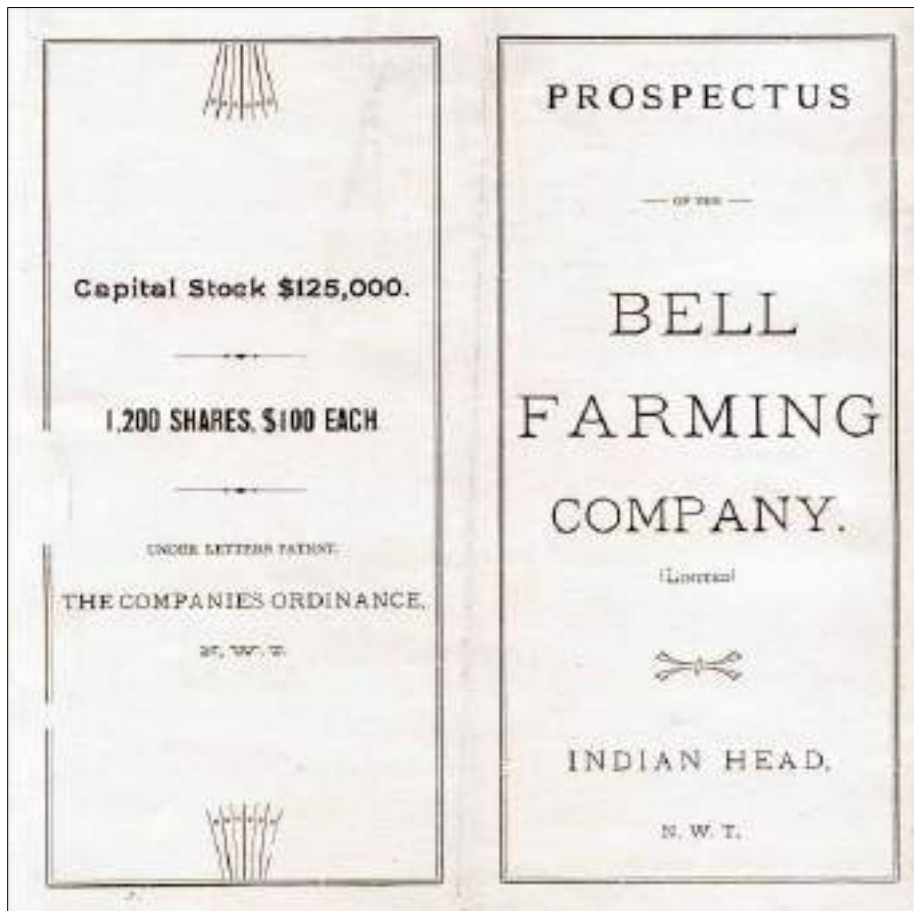
1892 – Dec. 30 – Major Bell receives \$15 from Thomas E. Jackson for threshing done in 1891.

(Source: Prov. Archives of Sask. Thomas I. Jackson collection, PR 18-121)



# 1893

1893 – Prospectus for the Bell Farming Company – based on data from 1882-1892



292 kb



## PROSPECTUS.

Ten year's experience has shewn the fact that the future supply of high grade wheat to meet the wants of Great Britain will be drawn from the vast fertile fields of Manitoba and the Northwest Territories.

The results of the experience of those who have been directly engaged in farming not only go to prove the capacity of the soil of the Canadian Northwest but have enabled those interested to arrive at an actual foundation of facts and figures in every detail, shewing clearly the average cost of production and the percentage of profit realized upon the operations.

When the country was first opened up for settlement, through the completion of that grand transcontinental highway, the Canadian Pacific Railway, attempts were made to farm on a scale commensurate with the vastness of vision that contemplated a field of operations stretching unbroken one thousand miles from east to west, but time and experience have narrowed these operations to a basis of acreage over which a manager can exercise the fullest supervision, practise the strictest economy in working and earn the very best results. The limit over which the most successful supervision may be exercised is found to be the yearly yield from 3,000 to 4,000 acres.

During the past five years Mr. W. R. Bell has farmed a portion of the property at one time belonging to the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company (limited) and purchased by him in the year 1888 and since then worked by him individually. His net profits during that period have averaged annually ten dollars per acre on an average acreage of 1,450 acres. There are now ready for crop 1,800 acres of summer-fallow.

This acreage, profitable as it has been, is not sufficient to give full employment to himself and staff and provide adequately to meet the demands upon him which are necessarily the result of the position in which he finds himself.

The property consists of 11,815 acres—almost *en bloc*—lying adjacent to the Town of Indian Head and the Experimental Farm operated by the Dominion Government.

The present value of this land, as appears by the tabulated list presented elsewhere, is estimated—including the cost of preparing the 1,800 acres now ready for

crop—at . . . . .	\$161,292
The stock, implements and plant at . . . . .	30,000

A total value of . . . . . \$191,292

Upon this land, including dwellings, storehouses and granaries, there is a mortgage debt of \$115,000 leaving the net interest of the proprietor to be \$70,292.

To meet the demands of the mortgagees, The Scottish American Investment Company, of Edinburgh, Scotland, who desire the sum of \$30,000 to be paid on account and thereby reduce the advance to \$85,000, or to a sum about one-half the value of the land, and in order to raise the further sum of \$35,000 to be used as working capital, the following proposition is made; it being settled and understood that the whole property now held by W. R. Bell under Certificates of Ownership (Torrens title) together with

all the plant as enumerated will be transferred free of any encumbrance, other than that mentioned; and it also being understood that upon receipt of the \$30,000 on account as already stated, the Scottish American Investment Company will accept a new mortgage for \$85,000 at five per cent payable in five years.

The proposition is:

To form a Company to be known as "The Company (Limited)" with a share capital of \$125,000 in 1,250 shares of \$100.00 each.

Of this stock, the Company so formed under Letters Patent granted under the Ordinance entitled "The Companies Ordinance" is to issue to W. R. Bell 600 shares, fully paid up, as in full of his entire interest as before stated at \$70,292, leaving 650 shares to be subscribed for and from the proceeds of which, at par, is to be paid the \$30,000 to the Scottish American Investment Company, required before the 1st day of June next and leaving the remainder to secure the \$85,000 working capital.

Mr. Bell to remain in the capacity of Manager under the direction of the Board at a salary of \$3,000 per annum, which sum is also to cover the wages of a book-keeper.

The following estimates have been carefully prepared and bear out fully, and are based on the actual results, of the past five years. These, in brief, show the *total receipts* during the coming five years, say, from the 1st January 1893 to 1st January 1898 to be . . . . . \$294,975

The total expenditure, per estimates are:	
Current Account including interest . . . . .	\$117,525
On mortgage debt . . . . .	20,000
On capital account . . . . .	5
5 yearly dividends at 7 per cent on \$125,000 . . . . .	43,750
Mortgage debt paid . . . . .	85,000
Balance cash on hand . . . . .	27,800
	\$294,975
	\$294,975

At the end of five years' operations the Company will stand in the following position:

Value of real property and plant . . . . .	\$191,292
Expenditure on Capital Account . . . . .	20,000
Cash on hand . . . . .	27,800
	\$239,092

Liabilities (Capital Stock) . . . . .	125,000
To credit of Profit and Loss . . . . .	\$114,092

The realty may be expected to increase rapidly in value and during the currency of the period spoken of, six sections and two portions known as Sections 22 and 28, township 18, range 13, section 33, township 18, range 13, sections 35, 17, 21 and 22, township 18, range 12, and section 3, township 19, range 13, may be sold and realised on leaving some 7,000 acres, *the best and most compact farm tract in the Dominion of Canada* as the field for future operation.

The profit per acre is easily seen from the following:—Deduct from gross receipts \$294,975, the gross expenditure \$117,525 leaves the gross profit to be \$177,450. The acreage of first year is 2,000, of the next four years 3,500 each, an average of 3,200 acres per year or a total acreage in five years of 16,000—that is a trifle less than \$11.00 per acre per year.

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<p><b>AVERAGE PER ACRE OF WHEAT. AVERAGE OF PRICES.</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>1888</td><td>25 bushels</td><td>1889</td><td>per bush. \$1.25</td></tr> <tr><td>1889</td><td>21 "</td><td>1890</td><td>" "</td><td>75</td></tr> <tr><td>1890</td><td>18 "</td><td>1891</td><td>" "</td><td>52</td></tr> <tr><td>1891</td><td>18 "</td><td>1891</td><td>" "</td><td>52</td></tr> <tr><td>1892</td><td>17 "</td><td>1892</td><td>" "</td><td>52</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2">5) 120</td><td colspan="2">5) 326</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2">25 bushels</td><td colspan="2">47c</td></tr> </table>		1888	25 bushels	1889	per bush. \$1.25	1889	21 "	1890	" "	75	1890	18 "	1891	" "	52	1891	18 "	1891	" "	52	1892	17 "	1892	" "	52	5) 120		5) 326		25 bushels		47c		<p><b>ESTIMATED INCOME 1894.</b></p> <p>Wheat 2,000 acres at 25 bush. 75,000 bushels at 47 cts. \$35,250</p> <p>Oats 500 acres, 25,000 bush., 25 6,250</p> <p>Colts, 25 at \$50 1,250</p> <p>Hay, 500 tons at \$3 1,500</p> <p>Hogs, 500, 175 lbs each at 6c 8,750 <b>\$63,000</b></p>																																																																																											
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consented to act as trustees, and will receive all subscriptions for stock pending the formation of the Company.</p>		Seed	\$2,000	Stable maintenance	2,000	Labor \$1,000 per mo. 9 mos	9,000	Maintenance	1,200	Salaries	2,000	Twine	700	Insurance and taxes	700	500 pigs	1,000	Interest on mortgage	4,500		<b>\$24,300</b>	Implement Account	2,000	Harness	300	Repairs to building, etc.	1,000		<b>3,300</b>	Wheat, 2,000 acres at 25 bush.		75,000 bushels at 47 cts.	\$35,250	Oats and barley, 300 acres	6,000	Colts, 25 at \$50	1,250	" increase in value of '93 and '94	1,125	Hogs, 500	8,750	Hay, 100 tons	500		<b>\$61,175</b>	Same as 1895	<b>\$27,000</b>	Same as 1895	<b>\$61,175</b>	Same as 1895	<b>\$27,000</b>	Same as 1895	<b>\$61,175</b>
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Salaries	2,000																																																																																																																												
Twine	400																																																																																																																												
Insurance and taxes	700																																																																																																																												
500 pigs	1,000																																																																																																																												
Interest on mortgage	4,000																																																																																																																												
	<b>\$18,000</b>																																																																																																																												
10 head \$140	\$1,400																																																																																																																												
Repairs to other machinery	500																																																																																																																												
Harness	300																																																																																																																												
Repairs to buildings, etc.	1,000																																																																																																																												
	<b>3,200</b>																																																																																																																												
Seed	\$2,000																																																																																																																												
Stable maintenance	2,000																																																																																																																												
Labor \$1,000 per mo. 9 mos	9,000																																																																																																																												
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Salaries	2,000																																																																																																																												
Twine	700																																																																																																																												
Insurance and taxes	700																																																																																																																												
500 pigs	1,000																																																																																																																												
Interest on mortgage	4,500																																																																																																																												
	<b>\$24,300</b>																																																																																																																												
Implement Account	2,000																																																																																																																												
Harness	300																																																																																																																												
Repairs to building, etc.	1,000																																																																																																																												
	<b>3,300</b>																																																																																																																												
Wheat, 2,000 acres at 25 bush.																																																																																																																													
75,000 bushels at 47 cts.	\$35,250																																																																																																																												
Oats and barley, 300 acres	6,000																																																																																																																												
Colts, 25 at \$50	1,250																																																																																																																												
" increase in value of '93 and '94	1,125																																																																																																																												
Hogs, 500	8,750																																																																																																																												
Hay, 100 tons	500																																																																																																																												
	<b>\$61,175</b>																																																																																																																												
Same as 1895	<b>\$27,000</b>																																																																																																																												
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Same as 1895	<b>\$61,175</b>																																																																																																																												

SCHEDULE OF LANDS.					
Sec. 3	19	13 044ac.	85	\$ 5,152	No improvements, good land.
2	19	13 044	10	6,440	No improvements, good land.
1	19	13 711	15	10,750	All under plough, 3 stables, 2 cottages and 1 granary.
6 19 A	12 040	12	7,680		One half under plough.
5 19 A	12 040	11	7,040		"
33	18	13 640	8	5,150	No improvements, good land.
34	18	13 640	9	5,760	No improvements, good land.
35	18	13 040	14	8,960	3 stone cottages, 3 stables and 2 large granaries.
36	18	13 040	15	9,600	3 cottages and stables, 3 granaries.
31	18	12 640	14	8,960	3 cottages and stables.
33	18	12 640	10	6,400	No improvements, extra good land.
28	18	13 640	8	5,120	No improvements, extra good land.
27	18	13 640	12	7,680	1 stone cottage, 1 large granary, all under plough.
26	18	13 100	25	4,000	All under plough; all the main buildings, granaries, shops, stables, etc., cost \$18,000.
25	18	13 640	25	16,000	
30	18	12 480	20	9,600	2 cottages and large division stable; this is extra good land.
22	18	13 200	10	2,000	Under plough.
23	18	13 450	17	7,350	2 cottages and south division stable, large granary.
20	18	12 640	15	9,600	All under plough; 3 cottages and stables.
21	18	12 640	14	8,960	2 large granaries, 3 cottages and 3 stables; all under plough.
17	18	12 200	12	2,400	1 cottage and stable.
				11,816ac.	\$154,902
Cost of 1,800 acres summer fallow for crop at \$3.50 per acre . . .				6,300	
				\$161,202	
IMPLEMENTS.					
20	Sulkey ploughs, \$60 . . . . .			\$ 1,200	
5	Hand ploughs, \$25 . . . . .			125	
10	Spring tooth harrows, \$35 . . . . .			350	
6	Disc harrows, \$30 . . . . .			180	
1	Gang plough, small . . . . .			40	
2	Fanning mills, \$35 . . . . .			70	
1	Pair scales . . . . .			75	
1000	Sacks . . . . .			200	
18	Wagons, \$65 . . . . .			1,170	

18	Hay racks, \$12 . . . . .	\$ 216
19	Binders, \$150 . . . . .	2,850
2	Steam engines . . . . .	2,000
2	Separators, \$400 . . . . .	800
3	Water tanks, \$25 . . . . .	75
6	Broadcast seeders, \$40 . . . . .	240
10	Press drills, \$100 . . . . .	1,000
50	Set working harness . . . . .	500
1	Buckboard . . . . .	60
2	Carriages . . . . .	400
1	Cart . . . . .	30
1	Double driving harness . . . . .	60
1	Single " . . . . .	35
1	Wind mill and crusher . . . . .	100
	Blacksmith's outfit . . . . .	200
10	Sets trippletrees . . . . .	70
1	Flagpole . . . . .	25
5	Sleighs . . . . .	100
	Small tools, grain shovels, spades, forks, scythes, etc. . . . .	100
2	Mowers . . . . .	150
1	Horse rake . . . . .	30
2	Boiling kettles, etc. . . . .	50
	Repairs, etc. . . . .	100
		\$12,001
BUILDING MATERIAL.		
6000	Feet lumber, \$22 . . . . .	\$ 132
60	M-Shingles, \$3 . . . . .	180
		\$ 312
SUNDRIES.		
900	Fence posts . . . . .	\$ 112
4 1/2	Miles fencing enclosing pasture . . . . .	500
	Supplies (estimated) . . . . .	200
3	Cottages on Government farm . . . . .	600
1	Stable . . . . .	40
2	Granaries . . . . .	500
1	Blacksmith shop . . . . .	50
9	Portable granaries . . . . .	450
		\$ 2,472
FURNITURE.		
All furniture, bedding, etc., (other than personal effects, silver and fancy work,) office furniture including safe, desks, etc. . . . .		
		2,250
		\$17,635
LIVE STOCK.		
1	Imported Clydesdale stallion . . . . .	\$ 1,500
5	Imported Clydesdale mares . . . . .	2,000
30	Young mares, \$200 . . . . .	6,000
15	Old horses, \$100 . . . . .	1,500
3	Two year olds, \$150 . . . . .	450
7	Yearlings, \$75 . . . . .	525
3	Head cattle, \$35 . . . . .	105
27	Hogs . . . . .	300
	Chickens and turkeys . . . . .	75
		\$12,455

387 kb

1893 – Jan. 12 – *Manitoba Free Press*, p. 3 – report on 1892 work on Bell Farm – [check for details](#)

1893 – March 30 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript)

**Advertisement:** "A.J. Osment General Merchant and Dealer in Undertaker's supplies, furniture, stoves and steam fitting. Indian Head Assa."

1893 – Apr. 24 – *Winnipeg* \_\_\_\_\_ - Bell off to Indian Head to seed (published in 1913 – 20 Years Ago Today)

"Major Bell went west, yesterday, to his farm at Indian Head, to superintend seeding operations, which will be on a more gigantic scale than ever this year."

1893 – April 27 – *Regina Evening Leader*, p.1 – The Rifle Association - includes Major Bell on the executive

— ← —

**The Rifle Association.**

The sixth annual general meeting of the Assiniboia Provincial Rifle Association was held at the Lansdowne Hotel on Monday evening, the 24th instant, the President Major Hayter Reed, occupying the chair. The election of officers for the current year was proceeded with, resulting in the election of the following gentlemen:—President, Mr R. Sweet; vice-President, Mr. J. W. Jowett. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer were amalgamated and the present Secretary, Mr. Mitchell, was elected Secretary-Treasurer; asst. secretary, Mr. J. R. C. Honeyman; Executive Council—Major Hayter Reed, Major D. M. Wat, Major Perry, Messrs A. E. Forget, W. M. Williamson, R. J. Steel, W. J. Chisholm, E. McCarthy, T. H. Jones, A. McKinnon and J. T. Stenshorn, all of Regina; Major Bell, Indian Head; Captain Harris and Mr. Howgill, Moosemin; Mr. H. A. Carruthers, Kutawa, and Mr. C. Gass, Moose Jaw. Range Officer, Mr. W. M. Williamson. Team Captains, Major Mewat and Mr. R. Sweet. Range Committee, Messrs. T. H. Jones, W. J. Chisholm and A. McKinnon.

It was decided that the range should be opened immediately, and that the weekly matches be shot, during the present season, on Wednesday afternoons, except on league match days (commencing at 3 o'clock sharp) instead of on Saturdays as heretofore. Special inducements will be offered to young shots, and on the Canadian military league match days, viz: May 27th, June 10th, July 8th and 22nd, ammunition will be issued free of charge to all members shooting. The thanks of the association were tendered the retiring officers, and regret was expressed that the late president, Major Reed, could not be induced to again fill the chair which he had occupied, with so great benefit to the association, during the past three years.

1893 – April 27 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript)

“Mr. A.J. Osment is renovating his store.”

“Major Bell arrived from the east Monday morning.”

1893 – May 4 – *Brandon Mail*, p. 1 – Seeding on the Bell Farm

“Major Bell reports that 300 acres were seeded on the Bell farm by Monday last. Although seeding is not yet general in eastern Assiniboia, a great deal of land has already been sewn.”

1893 – May 11 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript)

“**Indian Head** - Major Bell is home again from the east.”

1893 – May 18 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript)

“Major Bell has 1,600 acres of wheat sown. Very promising.”

p.4 – “**At the Hotels:** The Leland: Major Bell, Indian Head”

1893 – May 25 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript)

Marg: annual meeting of the Liberal-Conservative Association of Indian Head held 21<sup>st</sup> inst. Major Bell appointed president, Angus McKay 1<sup>st</sup> vice-president.

1893 – June 1 – *Regina Evening Leader*, p. 2 Bell elected President of Liberal-Conservative Assoc.

“**INDIAN HEAD:** . . . At the annual meeting of the Liberal-Conservative Association of Indian Head held on the 20<sup>th</sup> inst., Major Bell was elected president, Angus McKay 1<sup>st</sup> vice-president, W.H. Stephens 2<sup>nd</sup> vice-president.”

1893 – June 15 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript)

“A Big Affair. The annual meeting of the Central Liberal-Conservative Association of East Assiniboia was held at Indian Head on Thurs. the 8<sup>th</sup> inst and was attended by 75 delegates, representing all portions of the district.” Election of officers including president Mr. Angus McKay Indian Head, and 1<sup>st</sup> vice president Captain Price Moosomin (Frank, you included the pix of his house in your version of the stone house book) Under the sub-head “The Banquet,” 125 gentlemen sat down at the Commercial Hotel and “After justice had been done to the bill of fare, Major Bell, overflowing with wit and good humor, proceed to dispose of a portion of the programme . . .”

“Major Bell, of Indian Head, has sent his horse Ovington to Winnipeg to be trained for the summer races.”

"Indian Head riflemen stood highest in the first North-West League match, and in the second competition at Indian Head, on Saturday, June 10, the following scores were made: WR Bell, 72 . . . "

1893 – June 19 – *Manitoba Morning Free Press*, p. 8 – Ovington to train in Winnipeg

“Major Bell's horse “Ovington” has been brought down from Indian Head and is at Patterson's stables in training for the coming races.”

1893 – July 6 – *Manitoba Morning Free Press*, p. 5 – Ovington to race at Prairie Park, Winnipeg

“Rain or shine the horses will start at Prairie Park this afternoon at 2 o’clock sharp. The directors have become tired waiting for favorable weather and decided last night to go on with the programme – let the elements rage as they may. Four races are on the board, -the three-minute- \_\_\_\_ . . . . . In the half-mile heats . . . . . The three-year-old trot . . . . . and the mile and a quarter dash in which Blair Athol is considered a sure winner will have in the field Thankful, Ovington, and Miss Tax.”

1893 – July 7 - *Winnipeg Tribune* - At Prairie Park Ovington entered for the mile heat / tied for third – [get copy of article](#)

1893 – July 7 – *Qu’Appelle Vidette* (Marg’s transcript)

Marg (?): 106 degrees F in the shade reported; last winter 54 degrees below zero F.

1893 – July 14 - *Winnipeg Daily Tribune*, p. 5, col. 3 – Ovington to race at the Winnipeg Exhibition

“Five additional entries have been made for the novelty race, mile dash: H. Simpson, Winnipeg, Fandango; W.R. Bell, Indian Head, Ovington; G. Campbell, Elphinstone, Black Joe; A.W. Law, Winnipeg, Parkhill; G.M. Webb, Winnipeg, Richard III.”

“Ovington and Fandango have been entered by their respective owners for the open running race on Friday, as also Parkhill, by A.W. Law, and Richard III, by G.M. Webb.”

1893 - [Visitors Register](#)

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
300	July 25, 1893	James Long	Stanbridge Hall, Ramsey, England	<a href="#">Member of British-Irish Farmer Delegate Tour</a>
301	“	Booth Waddington	Derbeyshire, England	<a href="#">Member of British-Irish Farmer Delegate Tour</a>
301	“	J. Steven	Ayrshire, Scotland	<a href="#">Member of British-Irish Farmer Delegate Tour</a>
303	“	Reuben Skelton	Nottingham, England	<a href="#">Member of British-Irish Farmer Delegate Tour</a>

1893 – List of British-Irish Farm Delegates (source: *Regina Leader*, 31 Aug. 1893, p. 8)



230 kb

Some of the delegates later stayed at the Lansdowne Hotel, Regina (See Sept. 21, 1893 entry)

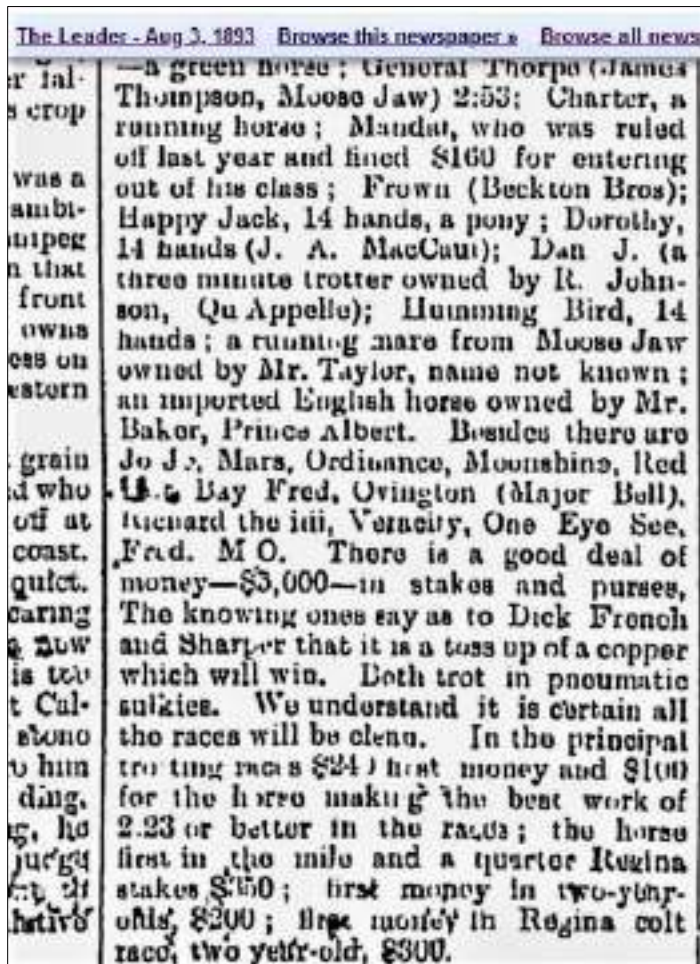
1893 – Aug. 2 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript)

"We had the pleasure of a drive over a portion of the Bell Farm a few days ago with the Major, and saw some splendid fields of grain. He has a field of oats that would be hard to beat in any country and nearly all his wheat looks fine."

1893 – Aug. 3 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 4 – Report on Bell Farm crops

"We had the pleasure of a drive over a portion of the Bell Farm a few days ago with the Major, and saw some splendid fields of grain. He has a field of oats that would be hard to beat in any country and nearly all of his wheat looks fine."

1893 – Aug. 3, *Regina Leader*, p. 8 - Major Bell runs Ovington in Regina Races



205 kb

1893 – Aug. 10 – Regina Leader, p. 8 – Major Bell staying at the Lansdowne Hotel, Regina.

1893 – August 10 – Visit by Andrew Osler and James Taylor of the Artisan Expedition, from Scotland.

The report on this visit was made in several later issues of the *Dundee Courier*, including one on April 24, 1894 by Andrew Osler, and one on Jan. 13, 1894 by James Taylor. The Expedition appears to have been funded by the *Dundee Courier*.

(Frank: I think that the reference to Brassey's 53,000 acres in the East Brassey Farm is a misprint – possibly it should be 5,300 acres. Elsewhere there is mention made that each of the Brassey Farms were about 2,500 acres, so two of them would be close to 5,000 acres. The statistics provided by Taylor appear to be more accurate than those in Osler's article)



**INDIAN HEAD TO BRANDON.**

**MEETING WITH A KIRRIEMARIAN.**

**HIS SUCCESS IN AMERICA.**

**THE LUMBER TRADE.**

(From the Dundee Courier of April 24.)

Mr Osler, the *Courier's* Agricultural Commissioner to America, writes:—Before leaving the district of Indian Head we had a drive through the great Bell Farm, which huge concern has been so often described. Formerly this farm was run by a company, Major Bell being the principal partner and manager. The company is now dissolved, and Major Bell runs the farm on his own account. A large portion of the land was sold, the Government purchasing 680 acres for the experimental farm. The Brassey Farms lying to the south of the railway track were also bought from the Bell Farm. On the East Brassey Farm there are 53,000 acres altogether, 1300 acres being in wheat and 150 in oats. We drove through one field of wheat on this farm, in which there were 900 acres. On the Bell Farm there are yet 1500 acres of wheat, and, except that some of the fields appeared rather overgrown with certain weeds, the place appeared well managed. We saw twelve self-binding reapers on this farm. On returning to our hotel in the evening I got rather a surprise, being told that a Kirrie-

Osler's Report: (138 KB)

1 of 5 in this book for Bell farm - Previous Next - View 3



**INDIAN HEAD EXPERIMENTAL FARM.**

as they are coming away very rapidly, in two or three years they will afford complete shelter. The growth of these belts of trees throughout the prairie cannot be too much encouraged. Besides taking away the bleak appearance of some parts, they will help materially to equalise the climate. Mr M'Kay drove us round for about sixteen miles, and we saw some splendid fields of wheat and oats. In this district scarcely any crop but wheat is grown, a system which I think is a great mistake as the crops run some risks from frost, and should they get spoiled, as unfortunately they sometimes do, they have nothing else to rely upon, whereas in a system of mixed farming the risk would be materially lessened. Next day we drove through the Bell Farm and Brassey Farm adjoining. There are 13,000 acres upon the Bell Farm, of which 1800 acres are in crop, mostly under wheat, with a small percentage of oats. Some of the wheat fields have an area of 320 acres, and have a grand appearance, as we saw them just within one week of harvest. At Major Bell's steading we saw twelve reapers and binders drawn up in array ready to start work some of the following days. There

*tion to America.* 11

are between thirty and forty horses kept on the farm, and about twelve men employed all the year round. As hired help is required during harvest and is difficult to procure in this locality, the Major generally gets from thirty to forty Indians for harvest. They pitch their tents on the prairie close at hand, and I am told they make very fair harvest hands. We also visited the Brassey Farm. Lord Brassey is the owner of a large track of land round Indian Head, and has it divided into four separate farms of 2500 acres each, and farmed by four different companies with separate corporations. Lord Brassey's object is that these companies, who have considerable capital, should provide employment for labourers coming into the country. On these farms they are "breaking" and extending year by year, and some splendid buildings are being erected.

(From the Dundee Weekly News of February 17.)

**CANADIAN NORTH-WEST.**  
**Brandon District.**

Mr James Taylor writes:—We arrived at Brandon on the 11th of August, and spent three days in

Taylor's Report (84 and 100 KB) – also reference to First Nation workers

1893 – 17 Aug – Regina Leader, p. 8 – Ovington bolted at Regina Races

3/4 MILE DASH.	
Thankful . . . . .	1st
Randall . . . . .	2nd
Bay Frank . . . . .	3rd
Ovington bolted. Time 1 21.	
Friday.	

38 kb

1893 – Aug. 24 – Qu'Appelle Progress (Marg's transcript)

"The *Free Press* says that Mr. Bell believes his wheat crop will go 35-40 bushels per acre." (Marg: Goes on to state that, during a Sunbeam Farm, aka Brassey farm, tour, 800 acres is under wheat and nearly 1,000 acres is ready for next year.)

1893 – Aug. 28 – *Montreal Gazette* – 14 British-Irish-Scottish -Welsh Farmer Delegates arrive in Canada

**Allan Line - S.S. Parisian:** Reuben Shelton; Wickham Inskip; J. Guiry; Joseph Smith; John Steven; Alexander Fraser;

**Beaver Line - S.S. Mariposa:** Booth Waddington; R.H. Faulks;

**Dominion Line – S.S. Vancouver:** J.T. Franklin; William Weeks; John Pitt ; A.J. Davies; John Roberts; plus one other Welsh delegate to be selected [James Long].

**THE FARMER DELEGATES.**  
Some Arrive by the Parisian—Others Will Follow Shortly.

The High Commissioner has selected fourteen British and Irish farmer delegates out of the large number of those who responded to the invitation of the Dominion Government. These fourteen delegates represent the following districts in the United Kingdom: Staffordshire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire (2); Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutlandshire (2); Huntingdonshire, Bedfordshire, Herts and Cambridgeshire; Yorkshire; north Scotland; south Scotland; Hampshire and Wiltshire; Devon and Cornwall; Gloucestershire, Worcestershire and Warwickshire; Wales (2); Ireland. Among these delegates at least five farm two hundred acres or less, while some farm over 1,000. The reports will therefore be well representative of British and Irish farming opinion. Six of the delegates by the Parisian, namely—Mr. Reuben Shelton, of Grange farm, Raddington, Notts, farming 175 acres; Mr. Wickham Inskip, of Caldecote, Baldock, Herts, farming 400 acres; Mr. J. Guiry, of Redmondstown, Clonmel, Ireland,

farming 1,200 acres; Mr. Joseph Smith, of Sowerby Thirk, Yorkshire, farming 388 acres; Mr. John Steven, of Purroch farm, Hurlford, Ayrshire; Mr. Alexander Fraser, of Balloch, Calloden, Inverness. Two more will arrive by the Beaver liner Mariposa, viz., Mr. Booth Waddington, of Bolehill farm, Wingerworth, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, farming 53 acres, and Mr. R. H. Faulks, of Langham, Oakham, Rutland, farming 61 acres. The remaining six will arrive by the Vancouver, of the Dominion line, viz., Mr. J. T. Franklin, of Handley, near Towcester, farming 1,000 acres; Mr. William Weeks, of Cleverton farm, Chippenham, Wilts, farming 150 acres; Mr. John Pitt, of Oburnford, Collumpton, Devon, farming 450 acres; Mr. A. J. Davies, of Upper Hollings, Pensa, Tenbury, farming 220 acres; Mr. John Roberts, of Plas Heaton farm, Trefnant, R.S.O., Wales; and one other Welsh delegate to be selected.

269 kb

220 kb

1893 – Aug. 31 - *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 4 - Bell elected President of the new Indian Head Board of Trade

**INDIAN HEAD BOARD OF TRADE.**

At a large and very influential meeting, held in the Commercial Hotel, Indian Head, on Saturday, August 26th, Mr. Wm. Douglas in the chair, a Board of Trade for Indian Head district was formed with the following officers:—

President, Major W. R. Bell; vice-president, James Conn; Secretary, H. Reed Henderson; treasurer, Wm. Dickson.

Directors: Messrs. Robt. Crawford, A. J. Osment, Wm. Douglas, H. H. Campkin, S. Edwards, Angus MacKay, Wm. Stephens and Walter E. Sheppard.

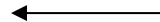
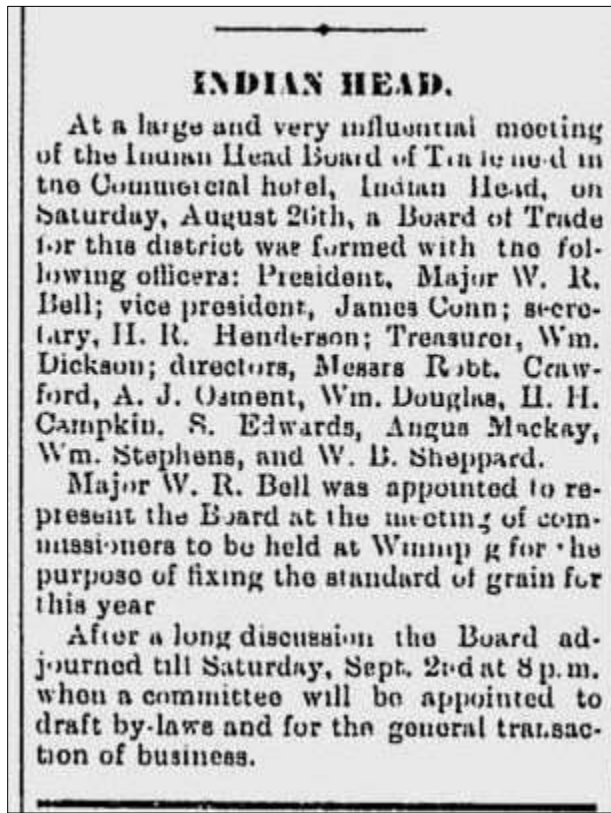
Major W. R. Bell was appointed to represent the Board at the meeting of Commissioners to be held at Winnipeg for the purpose of fixing the standards of grain for 1893.

In a rising and prosperous district like Indian Head we feel that a necessary step has been taken, and trust that those interested will give the undertaking their hearty support.

The Board of Trade will meet again on Saturday, Sept. 2nd, at 8 p.m., for the purpose of forming a committee to draft by-laws and for general business.

129 kb

1893 – Aug. 31 – *Regina Evening Leader*, p. 5 – Bell elected President of the new Indian Head Board of Trade



102 kb

1893 – September ? – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
304	Sept. ? 1893	Alex Fraser	Balloch of Cullodin, Inverness, Scotland	Member of British-Irish Farmer Delegate Tour
305	Sept. ? 1893	Jerome James Guiry	????	Member of British-Irish Farmer Delegate Tour
306	"	??? J. Cox	Crown Lands, Winnipeg in charge of delegation	Manitoba

1893 – Sept. 7 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

"Territorial Echoes Indian Head . . . At a meeting held in the Commercial Hotel, Indian Head, on Sat. Rug 26<sup>th</sup>, a Board of Trade for Indian Head district was formed with the following officers: President, Major W.R. Bell; vice president James Conn . . . Directors: Messrs Robert Crawford, AK Osment . . . Angus MacKay. . . Walter B. Sheppard...

"Major W.R. Bell was appointed to represent the Board at the meeting of Commissioners to be held at Winnipeg for the purpose of fixing the standards for grain for 1893."

1893 – 9 September – *Victoria Daily Colonist*: p. 1: Fire at the Bell Farm

<http://archive.org/stream/dailycolonist18930909uvic/18930909#page/n0/mode/1up/search/indian+head>

"Fire at the Bell Farm. Winnipeg, Sept. 8 – The flour mill, elevator, engine house and office belonging to the Bell farm at Indian Head, were destroyed by fire, also a car containing ties. Total loss about \$25,000. The original of the fire is unknown."

1893 – Sept 14 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* - Bell and friends shooting ducks at Lakesend

"The following item should have appeared in our last issue: Mr. A.E. Iredale entertained Major Bell, of Indian Head; Mr. D. Ricardo, of Calgary; Messrs. Lascelles and Crosbie, of Moose Jaw; and Mr. C. Fetherstonhaugh at his shooting box, at Lakesend, on Friday and Saturday last when thy had two good days' sport, bagging over 400 ducks."

1893 – Sept. 14 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript)

"Big Fire at Indian Head. The fire fiend visited Indian Head on Thursday afternoon last and filled the town with excitement and consternation. The Bell Farm flour mill, elevator and engine house were destroyed by the devastating element, as was also a car of ties belonging to the CPR. There were 1,400 bags of low grade flour in the mill at the time, and the elevator contained 1,300 bushels of wheat. The damage was estimated at \$25,000 and there was only \$4,000 insurance on the elevator. There was a strong wind blowing at the time, and other buildings in the vicinity were in great danger of being consumed. Only the hardest fighting prevented the town from being licked up by the flames. The origin of the fire is not definitely known."



64 kb

*Major Bell's grain elevator and flour mill burned in 1893 - note gap in lineup in this c.1896 photo – possibly the site of the mill and elevator.*

1893 – September - exact date undetermined (some on 19<sup>th</sup> Sept., see below)

In 1893 the High Commissioner for Canada invited a delegation of people connected to the agricultural industry in Great Britain to visit Canada and "report upon its agricultural resources, and the advantages the country offers for the settlement of farmers and farm labourers, and the other classes for which there is a great demand."

Some of the tour members visited the Bell Farm in late July, en route West; others in early September (including Alex Fraser and John Steven) , apparently while returning to the East. A number of the members signed the Visitor's Register. Unfortunately Major Bell was away when Fraser and Stevens toured the area, and so Mrs. Bell did the honours of meeting them.

Thomas Mills apparently accompanied the tour, and took a large number of photos, but did not sign the Visitors Register.

p. 43 – ref to Thomas Mills: in Report of Mr. Alex Fraser

<https://archive.org/stream/scotchtenantfarm00cana#page/n51/mode/2up>

It was with a general feeling of regret that the passengers, who had passed the preceding week so pleasantly, said good-bye. During the passage, Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper had several conversations with the delegates, both together and separately, and imparted to us very much useful and interesting information about Canada, and how we could accomplish the objects of our mission in the best and most expeditious way. Mr. Thomas Mills, photographic artist and lanternist, Garth, Bangor, North Wales, gave an entertainment on board, showing his views of Canada, which we afterwards found to be very correct and representative. He accompanied one section of the Delegation, adding to his already copious supply of lantern slides many new and interesting views. Our portmanteaus and boxes were passed by the Custom House officers with very little difficulty, they in every case taking our word for what they contained. I may mention that on our return journey, at Liverpool, the examination was very much more strict.

45 kb

Following the journey, Messrs Steven and Fraser published their observations, as noted below:

p. 18: Bell, Brassey and Sykes/Edgeley Farms: in Report of Mr. John Steven

<https://archive.org/stream/scotchtenantfarm00cana#page/n27/mode/2up>

18 *The Agricultural Resources of Canada.*

*The Old Bell Farm.* We next visited the great Bell Farm, which lies between the town of Indian Head and Qu'Appelle, a town still farther west. It is one of the gigantic affairs in the way of farming in Canada, or I might rather say it used to be; it is now divided into three large farms. Major Bell used to have 12,000 acres of wheat. It used to be run as a joint-stock affair, but the company dissolved, and it was divided into three farms, one of which is owned by Major Bell. On this farm there are still about 1,400 acres of wheat, and, as far as we can learn, it is successfully managed. Major Bell being from home when we called, we only waited a short time; visiting also the Edgley Farm of 14,000 acres, 2,000 of which are in cultivation. Land here can be bought for from \$5 to \$8 per acre, according to quality. Mr. Sykes, Stockport, Manchester, is owner of an immense estate, and willing, I understand, to sell it at some such price. This particular location, however, is said to be more suited for wheat-raising than mixed farming. After staying overnight, we drove through a country of diversified appearance, mostly Government land, ready to homestead, or to be bought at from \$3 to \$4 per acre. We found this district also well watered, and intersected by small belts of wood of nearly an acre in extent on an average. To those here who are looking for land, water is of great importance—in fact, for cattle-farming it cannot be done without. Some parts of this plain are three miles square without a single bush, all waiting the plough; other parts are as I have described.

87 kb

p. 64 – Bell, Brassey Farms: in Report of Alex Fraser:

<https://archive.org/stream/scotchtenantfarm00cana#page/n73/mode/2up>

the stones being picked up on the surface. Wages here are very much the same as in Manitoba. Before our return to Indian Head we had a drive round the country, calling on several farmers. The system of farming is to summer-fallow one-third of the land in cultivation, and take two white crops off in succession; the land is not ploughed for the second crop, the stubble being burnt off in the spring, and the seed drilled in. In this way two-thirds of the farm is in crop, and the remainder in summer fallow. So far as wheat-growing is concerned, this is the finest land we have seen, the average yield being about 30 bushels per acre, with almost entire freedom from frost or hail. Smut has sometimes appeared, but only when the farmer has failed to dress his seed with bluestone. We drove over a part of the celebrated Bell Farm, which has so often been described, and called at the house. Unfortunately, Major Bell was away from home, but we were kindly received and hospitably entertained by Mrs. Bell. The Bell and Brassey Farms occupy a great deal of the land available for wheat-growing round this immediate neighbourhood, but on both land can be bought for a very reasonable figure from \$10 upwards. In the afternoon we drove to Qu'Appelle, about 10 miles west, which was reached at 4.30 p.m. Most of the journey was through the Brassey Farm. After the first couple of miles the land was unbroken, and of a lighter and more undulating nature. Many bluffs, composed of tall poplar scrub, were dotted over the land, the trail at times going through an avenue over a hundred yards in length. The principal agricultural implement agent at Qu'Appelle is a Mr. MacDonald, from Forres, N.B.

93 kb

1893 – 14 September: [Winnipeg Free Press](#) – reference to threshing machines & Ralph Todd

**Harvest Reports.**  
**INDIAN HEAD, Sept. 12.**—Much of the grain has been stacked during the past week, and the operations will be continued with unabated vigor, weather permitting till finished, the grain being in excellent condition. T. T. W. Brady, representative of S. P. Clarke & Co., of Winnipeg, who arrived here on the 7th inst., visited the Bell farm to view the wheat in stock which he pronounced the best he had seen during his travels this season. It is gratifying to note that the wheat in this large grain growing district is entirely free from smut. The Experimental farm here has done invaluable service in that direction by the careful and successful tests made in treating the seed grain with bluestone which our farmers have prudently applied much to their advantage and profit. All our threshing machines are now ready and will begin work in a few days. Ralph Todd, a pioneer farmer, residing eight miles northwest of Indian Head and who is known far and near as the model bachelor of the Qu'Appelle district, was interviewed by your correspondent on the 9th inst. Mr. Todd said his crop of wheat would yield over 8,000 bushels, which is an excellent showing even for a model bachelor for one season's operations.



1893 – Sept 19 – *The Agricultural Resources of Canada: Mr. T. Pitt's Report*, p. 15 - visit to Bell Farm / Indian workers

“Sept. 19: . . . . We also passed through the Bell Farm, originally 60,000 acres, costing \$1 ½ per acre, owned by Major Bell, from Ontario; in 1882 was formed into a company. Major Bell now owns about 14,000 acres, with 4,000 in cultivation. Indians help on the Bell Farm in harvest.”

1893 – Sept 20 - *The Agricultural Resources of Canada: The Report of J.T. Franklin*, p. 7 – good crops, Indians workings, vacant cottages, and weeds

“Sept 20 . . . Brassey Farm . . . . This farm was a portion of the celebrated Bell Farm. We drove from this farm through the Bell Farm, but had not time to call. It was originally 60,000 acres, and Lord Brassey bought 33,000 acres of it. Major Bell now farms 14,000 acres, but only 4,000 acres are in cultivation. There are good cottages, and granaries, built apparently upon each section, a large number of which are unoccupied upon a portion that is waste. We saw some excellent crops being carried by Indians, who camped near during the harvest; but on other portions of the estate a fire would have been a great benefit to burn the weeds. Farming on a very large scale where one cannot give a strict attention seldom answers. Take, for example, this farm, and that recently owned by Mr. Sandison at Brandon. But I think this is a very good district for corn-growing, where any man is likely to get a good return for his labour.”

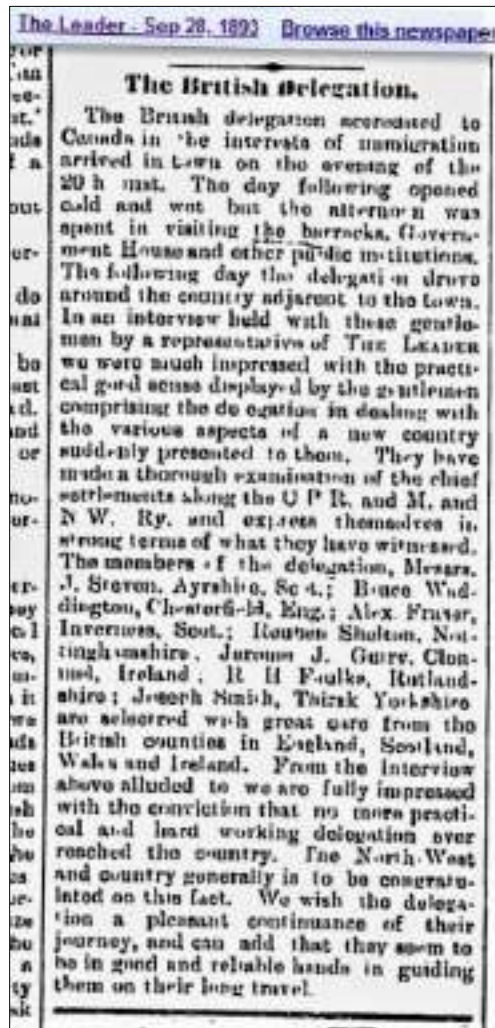
1893 – Sept. 21 – *Regina Leader*, p. 8 – British-Irish Delegates stay in Regina hotel on Wed. Sept. 20

—On Wednesday the following delegates arrived and put up at the Linsdowne: Messrs. J. Stoven, Ayrshire, Scot.; Bruce Waddington, Chesterfield, Eng.; Alex. Fraser, Inverness, Scot.; Reuben Shelton, Nottinghamshire; Jerome J. Gury, Clonmel, Ireland; R. H. Faulks, Rutlandshire; Joseph Smith, Thirsk Yorkshire; Mr. George J. Cox, Inspector Crown Lands, is in charge of the delegation.

81 kb

See also Sept. 28, 1893 report

1893 – Sept. 28 – *Regina Leader*, p. 8 – British-Irish Delegation tour Regina area



151 kb

1893 – Oct. 5 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript)

“Major Bell is erecting another elevator on a site near the one which was recently destroyed by fire. The new elevator will have a capacity of 30,000 bushels.”

1893 – Oct. 4 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 4 – Court Case: Thompson for stealing Bell's decoy ducks

“**SUPREME COURT** – There was a regular sitting of the Supreme Court held at Qu'Appelle on Tuesday last, Judge Richardson presiding. The following were heard:

Queen vs James Thompson. In this case Thompson was charged at the instance of Major Bell with stealing decoy ducks. Mr. Scott was Crown prosecutor and Mr. Smith and Mr. Second for defendant. Defendant was acquitted.”

1893 – October 9 – Flying the flag at the Bell Farm in the 1890s

36

dogs, and immense droves of cattle. We have passed the great 'Bell' farm, so called after its owner. It is worked on a gigantic scale, and is entirely of grain. One stretch of wheat is four miles long, to plough one furrow and back again with a team of horses is a man's day's work. All the work on this farm is done in a kind of military fashion, the men work in companies and battalions, and with an exactness representing drill. At the dinner hour a flag is hoisted on the highest part of the farm buildings, which can—on this perfectly level land—be seen for miles. At that signal every soul on the farm leaves off work and eats his meal, always taken with him; at the end of an hour down goes the flag and every man recommences work. The owner has an excellent house near the railway, and he has housed all his men in suitable and comfortable little frame cottages. They have good wages and wholesome food, though not much beef or mutton, the latter I should imagine never, as throughout the whole of the journey I have seen nothing like a sheep, excepting one pet lamb at the door of a hut, and evidently not intended for the mint.

←  
226 kb

(Source: *Here a Little and There a Little*, by Agnes Simpson, 1894, p. 36.)

1893 – Oct. 19 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 1 – Agricultural Show at Indian Head – Major Bell won 17 prizes for: horses (11), cattle (2) and grain (4)

**AGRICULTURAL SHOW AT INDIAN HEAD.**  
 The tenth annual exhibition of the Indian Head Agricultural Society was held at Indian Head on the 4th inst. The day was all that could be desired, but the rain of the two previous days had left the roads in a state that no doubt prevented many from a distance attending. The exhibit of grain, vegetables, ladies' work, etc., was shown in the Town Hall, while the cattle and sheep pens were arranged at the back of that building. The Experimental Farm made a grand exhibit of grain, seeds, vegetables, grasses, etc., which was tastefully arranged in the centre of the hall and attracted a great deal of attention. The display of ladies' work and dairy produce was excellent in quality and quantity, as was also the exhibit of the Assiniboine Indians from the reserve in charge of Mr. W. S. Grant. The grain exhibit has never been excelled in quality, and when one considers the small percentage of farmers in this district who have threshed, the number of samples was large. The exhibit of cattle, sheep, and pigs was especially good, both in number and quality. The number of horses was not large, but the prize winners were excellent specimens of their respective classes, especially the stallions and colts. The judges were all visitors from Grenfell and their awards gave great satisfaction. The following is the prize list:—

**HORSES.**

58 kb

**HORSES.**  
 Blood horses—Stallion any age, W R Bell.  
 Heavy draught (registered)—Stallion, W R Bell. Brood mare, W R Bell first and second.  
 Heavy draught—Stallion three years old or over, J Glenn. Mare with foal at side, J Halsey, J Halsey. Filly or gelding three years old, W Kirkland. Filly or gelding two years old, W R Bell first and second. Filly or gelding one year old, W R Bell first and second. Tern, J Halsey.  
 General purpose—Stallion three years old, J Glenn. Stallion two years old, W H Vidal a colt. Brood mare with foal at side, J Glenn, J Whittingham. Filly or gelding three years old, W Dickson. Filly or gelding one year old, W R Bell first and second. Foal of 1893, J Whittingham, K Williamson, Teatin, J Boothby, E Williamson.  
 Hunters—Mare with foal at side, W J Harvey, Major Bell. Filly or gelding three years old, W Dickson. Filly or gelding two years old, J Tate. Foal of 1893, Major Bell, W J Harvey.  
 Carriage and saddle horses—Pair of carriage horses in harness, C H Hunter, J Glenn. Saddle pair, J Harvey, E Williamson.  
**CATTLE (REGISTERED).**  
 Durhams bull any age, T Skinner, R C Highy. Durham bull of 1893, T Skinner first and second. Durham cow, T Skinner first and second. Bull other than Durham, A J Drake, T Skinner. Cow other than Durham, B Swank. Heifer other than Durham, two years old, T Skinner. Heifer other than Durham, one year old, T Skinner.  
**CATTLE (GRADES).**

58 kb

**CATTLE (GRADES).**  
 Cow, W Jackson, Major Bell. Heifer two years old, W Dickson, T Skinner. Heifer one year old, T Skinner, Major B. H. Calf of 1893, W Harvey, T Skinner. Yoke of working oxen, Assiniboine Indian, Joseph Glenn.  
**SHEEP.**  
 Short wool ram, W Kirkland, W Dickson. Short wool ewe lamb, W Dickson, J Fessenden. Two short wool ewes, W Dickson, W Kirkland. Two short wool ewe lambs, W Dickson first and second. Pen of short wools, W Dickson. Long wool ram, T Skinner first and second. Long wool ewe lamb, T Skinner. Two long wool ewe lambs, T Skinner. Pen of long wools, T Skinner.  
**PIGS.**  
 Boar with registered pedigree, B Woolhouse first and second. Boar over one year, E J Brooks first and second. Boar under one year, B Woolhouse first and second. Sow over one year old, E J Brooks, R C Highy. Sow under one year old, B Woolhouse first and second. Sow with litter of pigs, R Lee.  
**POULTRY.**  
 Coop of any variety fowls, J Brown. Pair of ducks, J Brown, J Leuder. Pair of geese, J Cappithorn, J Whittingham.  
**GRAIN.**  
 Four bushels Red Fyfe wheat, Major Bell, W Dickson. Two bushels Red Fyfe wheat, Major Bell, W Dickson. Two bushels two-rowed barley, Major Bell, T Skinner. Two bushels white oats, Major Bell. Collection of native grasses, G Lang, C Thompson.

85 kb

1893 – October - \_\_\_\_\_ - Lord and Lady Aberdeen cross Canada in Oct on first tour as Governor-General – no reference to a stop at Indian Head yet located.

1893 – Dec. 14 – *Brandon Mail*, p. 1 – Death of Thomas Routledge

**“Death of Mr. Thomas Routledge.** – It is with extreme sorrow that we announce the death of Mr. Routledge, of Virden. The deceased gentleman accompanied by his partner, the Hon. Mr. Bouverie left Virden a short time ago en route for England. On the train Mr. Routledge burst a blood vessel and had shortly after his arrival in Winnipeg, to be taken to the General Hospital. He never rallied and his death took place on Tuesday last.

The deceased gentleman had a host of friends and held many prominent positions. At one time he was manager of the Bell Farm. Subsequently he joined the Hon. Mr. Bouverie in their large farm at Boss Hill. He commanded "A" Troop of Dragoons raised at Virden till a short time ago when he resigned.

The deceased gentleman's funeral will take place from the Armoury Winnipeg, today."

1893 – Dec. 21 – *Regina Leader*, p. 4 – Death of Capt. Routledge

**"DEATH OF CAPTAIN ROUTLEDGE** Nothing that has occurred in the Territories has caused us so much pain as the death of Captain Routledge of Virden. We met him first in 1882 when he was manager for Major Bell. A finer young fellow physically, morally and intellectually it would be hard to find, if you travelled the world over. His goodness of heart beamed out from an open countenance full of intelligence and free from guile. He was about to visit the Old Country. At Winnipeg bleeding of the lungs set in. He went to the hospital. Becoming delirious he evaded the nurses and walked out into the snowy, freezing air and of course got frozen. He had great faith in the North-West which in his death has sustained a great loss."

1893 or 1894 – Major Bell travels to Calgary

Sometime time during 1893 or 1894 Major Bell was in Calgary and had a formal posed photo taken by Robert Randolph Bruce. This photo was one of a series that Bruce took of important Western personalities (almost all men), sitting in the same chair and background screen, and with a stuffed owl on the left. As many of these men were members of Calgary's Ranchmen's Club, it is possible that the Major was also a member.



Source: Prov. Archives of Saskatchewan: Bell family collection

# 1894

1894 – Bell, W.R. , Bell Farm, Indian Head – Henderson’s Manitoba and NWT Gazetteer and Directory, p. 533

1894 – *Qu’Appelle Progress* (Marg’s transcript)

Marg: *W. Syme Redpath is the new manager of The Qu’Appelle Printing and Publishing Co., Ltd, and the Qu’Appelle Progress.* The paper “will run on Liberal-Conservative principles.”

1894 – Alfred Scrimshaw began work at Bell Farm (source: *Regina Leader* obit: 4 Oct, 1909)

**Indian Head. From Our Own Correspondent.** INDIAN HEAD, Oct. 2 – Alfred Scrimshaw, a former resident of Indian Head, died at Moose Jaw this morning, and will be buried here on Monday. Mr. Scrimshaw came here in 1894 from England, and after working a few years on the Bell Farm, was engaged as gardener on the Experimental Farm, where he remained until three years ago [1906], when he went to Regina as gardener for the C.P.R. Shortly afterwards he removed to Moose Jaw to work in the nursery there.

1894 – January 14 – *St. Paul Globe*: - until Jan. 25, 1894 – review again to see if any reference to Major Bell other than the drawing.

Major Bell is among a contingent of 36 curling rinks competing at St. Paul. 21 of the curlers are illustrated on the front page, including the Major. More curlers shown in later editions.

<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn90059522/1894-01-14/ed-1/seq-1/>

Jan. 19 – curling sketches:

<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn90059522/1894-01-19/ed-1/seq-1/>

Jan 20, 1894 – exterior view of the rink

<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn90059522/1894-01-20/ed-1/seq-1/>

1894 – Jan. 20 - *Winnipeg Tribune*

"Major Bell, of Indian Head, is in London, Eng., staying at 33 Wimpole St."



(99 KB)

1894 – Jan. 25 – Winnipeg Free Press – Bell in England (published in Forty-Five Years Ago – Jan 25, 1939)

“Major Bell, of the gigantic Bell farm at Indian Head, was in England, and British interest in western Canada was evidently of the keenest, as everybody seemed to be interviewing the Major, and accounts of his big farming enterprise filled the British papers arriving on the Free Press exchange desk.”

1894 – Feb. 24 – *Manitoba Free Press*, p. 6 – Major Bell on Farming – [check for details](#)

1894 – March 6 - *Winnipeg Tribune*

"Major Bell, of Indian Head, and Mrs. Bell, who are on their way back from England, left for Toronto this morning."

1894 – March 6 – *Manitoba Morning Free Press* - fox hunt at or near the Bell Farm

“On the 28<sup>th</sup> of last month a splendid run was enjoyed with the hounds by those who were tempted into the saddle by the warm weather. Lupus was found near Major Bell’s south fence and pursued a devious course through deepish snow and treacherous coulees for seven or eight miles and was run into by the dogs, none too soon, as the riders, horses and hounds themselves had just about had enough of it. A jack rabbit was also killed, after a short burst over some ploughed land.”

1894 – March 15 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 4 (Marg's transcript)

“Major and Mrs. Bell have reached Winnipeg on their return from England.”

“Mr. Sherwood, manager of the Bell Farm, has returned to Indian Head, looking hale and hearty.”

1894 – March 15– *Regina Leader*, p. 8 – Major & Mrs. Bell return from England

“Major and Mrs. Bell, of Indian Head, have returned from spending the winter in England.”

1894 – April – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
307	April 20, 1894	<i>W. Whyte</i>	Winnipeg	Manitoba
308	“	R.J. <i>Whitla</i> – 1 <sup>st</sup> goose shot	Winnipeg	Manitoba – see Aug 23, 1893 <i>Qu'Appelle Vidette</i> for note on duck hunt.
309	“	C.N. Milestone	Moose Jaw	Saskatchewan

1894 – April 5 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript)

“Major Bell has secured the contract to supply 8,999 bushels of seed wheat, to be distributed by the government.”

1894 – April 16 – *Manitoba Morning Free Press* – Clydesdale and Shire mares from Walrond Ranche Company, Alberta

“The Walrond Ranche company of Alberta, have sold for good figures to Major Bell, of the Bell farm, eight teams of Alberta bred Clydesdale and Shire mares.”

1894 – 24 April – *Dundee Courier* –

report from Mr. Andrew Osler – who visited the Bell Farm on August 10, 1893. See that date for further details

1894 – April 26 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 4 – Major Bell – “A man without fear of risk”

“General Supt. Whyte, Assistant Supt. Milestone, of the C.P.R., and Mr. Jas. A. Whitelaw, merchant, Winnipeg, were guests at the Bell Farm this week. They departed Tuesday morning, their private car being attached to the east-bound train.”



And later . . . .

"While some men talk other men work," and the truth of the saying is nowhere better illustrated than in the preparation for the season's operations noticeable at this point. Time and again the half informed writer and orator inveigh against the North-West Territories as a wheat producing area. They write and speak positively of "the shortness of the season," "the uncertainty of the crops," "the distance from the market," etc., etc. Now, while all this is under way, certain men of a practical stamp are imbued with the idea that wheat growing is not a luck number, and that what other countries can do in the direction of producing cereals this locality can do, and do it a little better, and so the capitalist and private individual have gone on year after year, confidently breaking acre upon acre, until last season's shipment of grain from the C.P.R. station here up to

(part 1)

the present date reaches over 300,000—an output which bids fair to be thrown into the shade by this time next year. Prominent among this *nil desperandum* class of men has been Major Bell. His career has marked him as a man without fear of risk. And this spring he is as busy as ever on the Bell Farm. Nine drills are constantly at work seeding twenty acres daily, and wheat will be raised from between two and three thousand acres under cultivation. Mr. McLane, manager of the Sunbeam Farm, reports four hundred acres already seeded. The operations on the Canadian Alliance Farming Company's Farm have been retarded slightly by an insipient strike, which leaves the manager short handed at present, but the vacancies caused by leaving employees can easily be filled. The Experimental Farm has men, teams and machinery busily engaged, and other farmers around are well advanced with their season's work. Next week, however, for the benefit of the readers of the *PROGRESS*, more perfect details will be collected, which will serve to emphasize the determination of the farmers operating at and the growing importance of this section.

(part 2)

1894 – May 3 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript)

Indian Head. "Bricks are to be manufactured here this summer."

"'Whom the Gods love most they favor' – a trite saying illustrative of the good fortune that hovers over some people. Thus, one day last week, within an hour, Major Bell, unaccompanied, shot no less than 26 geese on the stubble of the Bell Farm."

Bell Farm, 1,600 acres seeded; Sunbeam Farm, 700 acres of the 800 to be sown.

1894 – May 10 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript)

“I see nothing to prevent sheep raising proving a success around Indian Head,’ remarked a dealer the other day, who has wintered a band of 188 on the Bell Farm. ‘Mine came through well, and the increase this year is 60 lambs. The carcasses net me 10 cents per pound dressed, and there is always good local demand.’”

1894 – May 17 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 4 (Marg's transcript)

“**INDIAN HEAD** - Barley is being sown on the Bell Farm.”

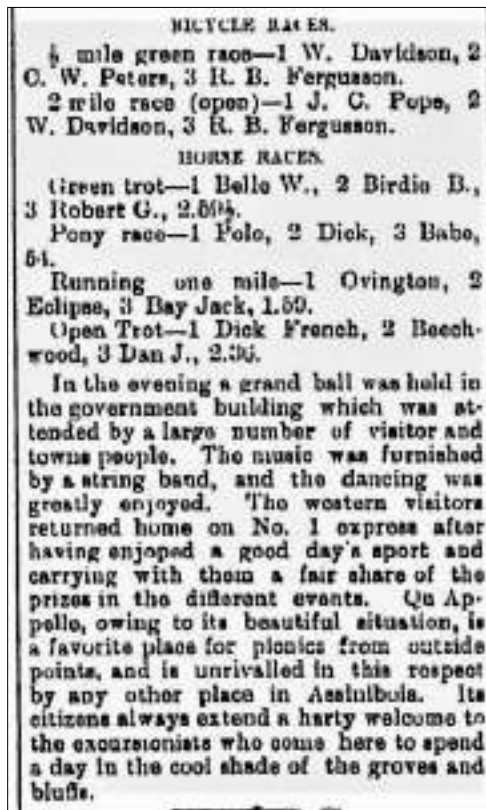
1894 – May 17 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

“Local Happenings. Major Bell was in town yesterday afternoon.”  
(Marg: “town” means Fort Qu'Appelle).

1894 – May 24 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 4 (Marg's transcript)

**Victoria Day:** “Ovington, Major Bell's nomination, entered for the mile running race at Qu'Appelle on the 24<sup>th</sup> with H.A. Belson, Grenfell, up, is expected to cut out some hot work for the field, and to carry its owner's colors past the judge's stand, a winner, with plenty of daylight to spare.”

1894 – May 31 – *Regina Leader*, p. 8 – Ovington wins horse race at Qu'Appelle



1894 – May 31 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 4 (Marg's transcript)

“Major Bell is in Winnipeg.”

1894 – June 2 – *Manitoba Morning Free Press*, p. 3 - Ovington wins horse race at Qu'Appelle

**THE 24TH AT QU'APPELLE.**  
**How Her Majesty's Birthday Was Observed by the Townspeople.**  
 QU'APPELLE STATION, May 23.—The 24th will long be remembered by the townspeople here and those who flocked in from all parts to enjoy themselves, and at the same time to do honor to the natal day of that gracious lady, whose thoughts are ever with her subjects at home and abroad, Queen Victoria. The weather was magnificent; a genial sun and balmy breeze, combined with the fact that many of the mosquitoes had business elsewhere, made the spirits of all rise and prepared them to enjoy thoroughly the programme arranged by the sports' committee, whose efforts culminated in the most perfect success. The Regina band attended, and after playing the national anthem on the market, discoursed popular pieces for an hour or so. The competitions in running, jumping, etc., were decided before noon. After dinner the race course was thronged long before the horses appeared. The racing was good in every particular, the management perfect and the track in good condition. Following is the result of the different races:

161 kb

condition. Following is the result of the different races:  
 Green trot and pace, won by Mr. E. Warner's Belle W.  
 Mile, running, won by Major Bell's Ovington.  
 Open trot, won by Mr. James Scott's Dick French. Time 2:36, 2:42, 2:37.  
 Pony race, one-half mile, won by Mr. G. S. Davidson's Polo. Time 54, 57, 57.  
 One mile bicycle race, won by W. Davidson.  
 Two mile bicycle race, won by Mr. Pope, Regina.  
 After the races Mr. Scott afforded a great treat for those interested in trotting in an exhibition mile trotted by Dick French. The grand horse seemed to know that something was expected of him, and a more perfectly even movement and steadiness have never been witnessed here. Many were surprised to find that the time was 2:26 as he seemed to have been covering the ground at a much faster gait. In the evening the town hall was lighted up and a most enjoyable time was spent, and the dancing did not cease till the early morning. Enough cannot be said in praise of the managing committee under whose arrangement there was not the slightest hitch. All seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves, and there was not a single individual who showed the slightest sign of attempting to enjoy himself too much.  
 Last week a nasty accident happened

164 kb

1894 – June 7 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript)

Marg: “Indian Head Annual Meeting” Indian Head Liberal-Conservative Association election of officers includes WR Bell. Then, under Indian Head, Angus McKay chaired this meeting, with WR Bell elected president, WH Stephens 1st vice president, 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president James Conn, and secretary treasurer AW Sherwood.

“Major Bell went west recently accompanying Supt. Whyte on the latter's trip to the scene of the landslides that occurred on the CPR in the mountains during the present freshets.”

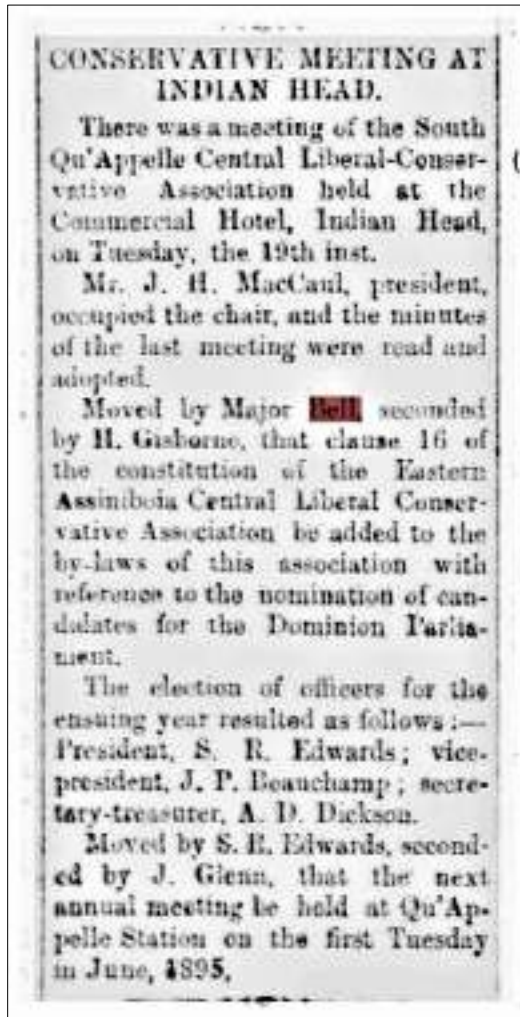
1894 – June 7 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* – Major Bell in British Columbia during flooding

“Major Bell went to the coast two or three weeks ago and has not been able to return on account of the floods, and probably will not be at the meeting today.”

1894 – June 14 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript)

“General Superintendent Whyte and Major Bell, of the Bell Farm, are reported to be doing the Robinson Crusoe act in some portion of the flooded district of British Columbia. At all events, the Major is not home yet.”

1894 – June 21 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 5 - Bell at Liberal-Conservative Convention



106 kb

1894 – June 21 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript)

Indian Head. "Major Bell returned from the west last Thursday."

"The rifle season was inaugurated last Saturday with a match open to all comers. Individually some excellent scores were made. Major Bell at 500 yards making 32 out of a possible 35 . . ."

(Marg: I just noticed Frederick Bell is now manager of the Qu'Appelle Progress.)

1894 – July 2 - *Manitoba Morning Free Press* - At Fort Qu'Appelle May 24 / Mile running won by Major Bell's Ovington – [get copy of article](#)

1894 – July 26 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript)

"Major Bell returned from Winnipeg."

1895 – Aug. 2 - *Daily Nor-Wester* - at the Regina Territorial Fair – [get copy of article](#)

1894 – Aug. 2 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

Under “Local Happenings”, which means Fort Qu'Appelle, “Maj. Bell of Indian Head, was in town yesterday, to secure the service of Sioux Indians for harvest work on the Bell Farm.” *Marg: Also, Mr. FL Bell of the Progress Printing Company was married, which means there was another Bell in Indian Head.*

1894 – Aug. 16 – *Regina Leader*, p. 8 – Major Bell pleased with crop

“Major Bell, of Indian Head, was in town on Tuesday, and was in high spirits, Providence having blessed him with a good crop.”

1894 – Aug. 23 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

“Messrs. J.A.M. Aikins, R.J. Whitla, Superintendent Whyte and Major Bell arrived in town yesterday for a few days shooting. Messrs. Iredale and Ftherstonhaugh (sic) took them up to the box at the head of the lakes.”

1894 – Aug. 30 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

“Messrs. Whyte, Whitla, Aikins, Bell, Iredale and Fetherstonhaugh returned to town on Friday morning, having bagged 402 ducks, about 299 of which were shipped east, and they claim that had they bagged all that were shot they would have brought home over 800 birds. The Winnipeggers were highly delighted with the country and the shooting.” *(Marg: From the frequent mention of Iredale and Fetherstonhaugh in the Vidette I know these two lived in Fort Qu'Appelle.) (Frank: possibly this photo below was taken on this occasion? If not, it is representative of the occasion.)*



145 kb

1894 – Sept. 6 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript)

“A general meeting of the Assiniboia Provincial Rifle Association was held in Regina Aug. 29<sup>th</sup>, at which Major Bell was elected president.”

1894 – Sept. 13 – *Regina Evening Leader*, p. 8 – Assiniboia Prov. Rifle Assoc – Windsor Hotel, Regina – Bell president

← —  
A.P.R.A.

At a general meeting of the Assiniboia Provincial Rifle Association held at the Windsor Hotel on Wednesday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, '94, the following officers were elected for 1894 :

President - Major W. R. Bell, Indian Head.

Vice-Presidents - Major Mowat and Dr. Low, Regina.

Council—Angus McKay, H. H. Lampkin, S. R. Edwards, J. B. Swift, Indian Head ; A. E. Forget, W. Laurie, R. J. Steele, T. H. Jones, E. B. Read, W. M. Williamson, Supt. Perry, N.W.M.P., Regina ; H. A. Carruthers, Touchwood ; G. Holdsworth, Moose Jaw ; Capt. Harris, J. Howgill, Morsomin.

Sec.-Treas., Jno. W. Jowett, Regina.

Asst.-Sec., D. G. Mackay, Indian Head.

The sixth annual prize meeting of the above association will be held on the Indian Head association ranges, commencing on Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. The prize list is a particularly liberal and open one, comprising the following matches : Nursery, Ex-President Mowat's, Merchants', Lieut.-Governor's, President's, Ex-President Road's, and affiliated teams'. Prizes will also be given for the highest aggregate scores. It is hoped that members of associations and other riflemen will do all in their power to make the meeting a great success. Prize lists may be had on application to D. G. Mackay, Asst.-Sec., Indian Head.

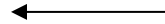
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143 kb

1894 – Sept. 12 – *Winnipeg Free Press* – Colmer visited the Bell Farm en route to Winnipeg

After leaving the industrial school, we drove to Indian Head through a very well-settled district. Farm-houses could be seen everywhere, and the stacks of grain which were dotted over the landscape gave an indication of the extent of the crops of the year. Threshing machines were also familiar objects, and here and there could be seen flames arising from immense heaps of straw which were being burnt as the only means of getting rid of them. The farmers, upon the whole, seemed to be very well satisfied with their progress, although they complain of the loss they had sustained by the drought which prevailed, and which lessened the yield to a certain extent. After three or four hours' drive, the immense elevators at Indian Head appeared on the horizon, and we were soon under the hospitable roof of Major Bell, of the well-known Bell Farm. That gentleman had many thousands of acres under cultivation, and there are several large farms in the neighbourhood owned by Lord Brassey and others. There is also a Government Experimental Farm, under the supervision of Mr. McKay. The crops in this district were smaller than those in 1893, which were phenomenal, but the grain was of the best quality, and altogether the farmers appeared to be fairly satisfied with their year's work.



1894 – Sept. 13 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 4 (Marg's transcript)

“Mrs. Featherstonehaugh's ball poudré [see note below photograph] , given at her residence, Fort Qu'Appelle, on Tuesday night, was attended by Mrs. Bell, Mrs. McKay, Mr. W. Crawford and Mr. D.G. McKay, who drove over to the Fort in the afternoon.”



136 kb

*Featherstonehaugh family and stone house, near Fort Qu'Appelle*

[Note: 1892 Definition of a **ball poudré**: “A ball of this description is conducted upon the same basis as an ordinary ball, so far as the programme and the general details are concerned. The guests attire

themselves as for a full-dress ball, except that the ladies are required to powder their hair white and wear fancy black patches upon their faces; and the gentlemen to wear white vests and small button-hole bouquets. The effect is very pretty, especially with the present artistic style of dressing which closely copies antique fashions.” Source: **Masquerade and Carnival: Their Customs and Costumes**, Butterick Publishing Company, 1892, p. 15.]

1894 – Sept. 27 – *Qu’Appelle Progress* – Major Bell won: \$18, trophy, painting and aggregate prize: cup

**RIFLE MEETING AT INDIAN HEAD.**

The annual matches of the Provincial Rifle Association, held at Indian Head on Thursday and Friday, the 20th and 21st, will rank among the successful meetings of the Association. Fewer competitors met than were expected, nevertheless the shooting was excellent, probably the best ever done in the Territories. Considering the Snider rifle was used, the scores compare favorably with others made farther east where the Martini-Hecpi has been placed in the hands of competitors. In the association team matches the shooting was particularly good. Winning two years in succession, Major Bell becomes the owner of the trophy presented by Ex-President Mount. Appended are the results of the various events:—

**Competition No. 1—Nursery Match.**  
7 shots. 200 yards.

	Score.
1st, James Conn, \$6	29
2nd, H. H. Campbell, \$4	27
3rd, R. Chappell, \$2	27
4th, J. Hastings, \$3	25
5th, J. E. Brooks, \$2	23
6th, D. G. Mackay, \$2	23
7th, W. M. Crawford, \$1	19
8th, W. F. Shoppard, \$1	12

**Competition No. 2—Ex-President**

116 kb

**Competition No. 2—Ex-President Mowat's Match.**  
7 shots. 200, 300 and 600 yards.

1st, Major Bell, trophy and \$5	79
2nd, J. Carson,	70
3rd, J. B. Swift,	75
4th, S. R. Edwards, \$3	73
5th, Captain Harris, \$3	72
6th, Dr. Keown, \$2	72
7th, J. W. Jowett, \$2	71
8th, R. Sweet, \$2	67
9th, J. Hastings, \$1	56
10th, R. Chappell, \$1	56

**Competition No. 3—Merchants' Match.**  
7 shots. 400 and 500 yards.

1st, Major Bell, painting	62
2nd, R. Sweet, shaving case and \$2	56
3rd, S. R. Edwards, cuff case and \$2	55
4th, Capt. Harris, pipe and case and \$2	54
5th, J. Carson, \$3	51
6th, J. W. Jowett, \$2	50
7th, J. Hastings, \$2	49
8th, J. McNaughton, \$1	47
9th, R. Chappell, \$1	46

**Competition No. 4—Lieutenant-Governor's Match.**

95 kb

**Competition No. 4—Lieutenant-Governor's Match.**  
7 shots. 200 and 400 yards.

1st, Dr. Keown, cup and \$5	58
2nd, J. B. Swift, \$6	58
3rd, Major Bell, \$4	57
4th, S. R. Edwards, \$3	57
5th, J. W. Jowett, \$3	56
6th, Capt. Harris, \$2	55
7th, R. Chappell, \$2	55
8th, J. Conn, \$2	52
9th, R. Sweet, \$1	50
10th, J. Carson, \$1	49

**Competition No. 5—President's Match.**  
7 shots. 200, 400 and 500 yards.

1st, Major Bell, \$3	88
2nd, R. Sweet, \$6	87
3rd, S. R. Edwards, \$5	84
4th, J. B. Swift, \$4	83
5th, J. Carson, \$3	80
6th, J. W. Jowett, \$2	76
7th, Dr. Keown, \$2	75
8th, Capt. Harris, \$2	74
9th, J. Conn, \$1	73
10th, D. G. Mackay, \$1	69

**Competition No. 6—Ex-President Reed's Match.**

85 kb

**Competition No. 6—Ex-President Reed's Match.**  
10 shots. 500 yards.

1st, J. Carson, \$6	39
2nd, S. R. Edwards, \$4	38
3rd, J. W. Jowett, \$4	38
4th, R. Sweet, \$3	37
5th, J. Conn, \$3	36
6th, J. B. Swift, \$2	35
7th, Dr. Keown, \$1	34
8th, R. Chappell, \$1	34
9th, Major Bell, \$1	34

**Competition No. 7—Teams Match.**  
Teams of three. 7 shots at 200, 400 and 500 yards.

1st, Moosomin, \$9	259
2nd, Indian Head, sr., \$6	258
3rd, Regina, \$8	235

**Aggregate.**

1st, Major Bell, cup	320
2nd, S. R. Edwards, silver medal	307
3rd, J. Carson, silver medal	298
4th, R. Sweet, badge	207
5th, J. W. Jowett, badge	204

89 kb



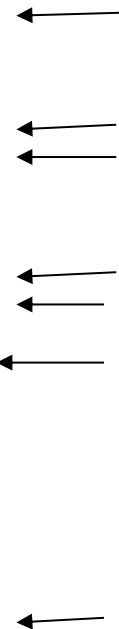
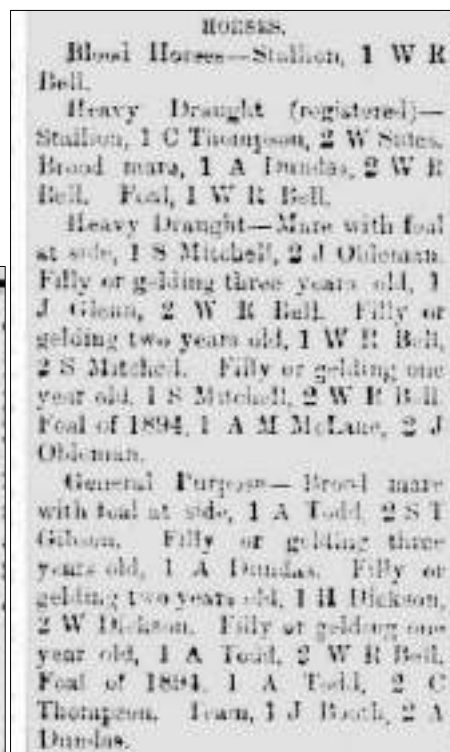
Column 2 - **“INDIAN HEAD:** Major Bell, member of the Grain Grading Board, attended a meeting of that body in Winnipeg last week. All grades of wheat, barley and oats were left the same as last year.”

1894 – Oct. 4 – Qu’Appelle Progress, p 4

Marg: List of award winners at the Indian Head Agriculture Show. “Blood Horse – Stallion/ W.R. Bell, as well as, listed under “registered Draught Horses,” a Brood mare and foal, and several under “Heavy Draught.” (Marg: An award was also presented to J Glenn for his stallion and Carriage horses. Yes, it just occurred to me, Bell and Glenn would be contemporaries and, with their military background and station in life, probably friends as well.) Awards for grain also to W.R. Bell. Now, here is a puzzle that may have wider implications for other entries on Bell, several “Special prizes” were presented by both Maj. Bell and W.R .Bell. A.J. Osment also presented prizes – in various categories of women’s work.

1894 – Oct. 4 – Qu’Appelle Progress (Marg’s transcript)

Marg: Indian Head fair poorly attended but this is possibly due to “prevailing hard times.” – “ Two year old colt or filly sired by ‘Better Luck’ prizes by Major Bell, 1<sup>st</sup>” (p. 4) Many references to Major Bell.



43 kb

51 kb

CATTLE.

Durham (registered)—Bull over one year, 1 T Skinner. Cow, 1 and 2 T Skinner.

Fleisch Angus (registered)—Bull any age, 1 T Skinner. Cow, 1 and 2 T Skinner. Heifer calf of 1894, 1 T Skinner.

Grade Cattle—Milk cow, 1 T Skinner. Heifer two years old, 1 W R Bell, 2 T Skinner. Calf of 1894, 1 W H Lee, 2 T Skinner.

22 kb

GRAIN.

Two bushels Red Fyfe wheat, 1 C H Bonsteel, 2 T Skinner, 3 W R Bell. Two bushels wheat any other variety, 1 W Braithwaite, 2 J B Halden. Two bushels two-row barley, 1 W R Bell. Two bushels six-row barley, 1 T Skinner. Two bushels white oats, 1 T Skinner, 2 W R Bell. Two bushels small peas, 1 J Harvey. Half bushel of flax, 1 T Skinner, 2 W Braithwaite.

26 kb

SPECIAL PRIZES.

Heavy draught Fowl of 1894, prize by William Dickson, President of Indian Head Agricultural Society, 1 A M McLane. Two-year-old colt or filly sired by "Better Luck," prizes by Major Bell, 1 and 2 W R Bell. Colt sired by "Ashwood," prize by Joseph Glenn, 1 James Churchill. Single driver in harness, prize by W F Johnston, 1 J Glenn. Heavy draught colt, prize by W F Johnston, 1 A M McLane. Cow and calf, prize by W F Johnston, 1 T Skinner. Bob calf, prize by W F Shepard, 1 T Skinner. General purpose colt three years old, prize by A G Orchard, 1 A Dundas. Single driver in harness, open to farmers, prize by J Phillips, 1 R Todd. Best kept and neatest farmer's team and harness, prize by James Conn, 1 J Dunan. Boy rider under 10 years, prize by Jno. Brown, 1 J Brown. 40 lbs of butter in crock or tub, prizes by Crawford & Co., 1 A J Parker, 2 J R Harris. Lady taking greatest number of prizes in Class I (Dairy and Preserves), prize by Supt. A Mackay, 1, Mrs J R Harris. Lady taking greatest number of prizes in Class K (Ladies' Work), prize by Supt. A Mackay, 1 Mrs T S Garratt.

74 kb

A Mackay, 1 Mrs T S Garratt. Collection of vegetables, prize by Cowan & Edwards, 1 J Harvey. Leaf of bread, prize by Jas. Hastings, 1 Mrs Davidson. Map of Dominion of Canada by school children, prizes by E J Brooks, 1 M Spearman, 2 B Johnston, 3 R McKay. Collection of fancy wool work, prize by A J Osment, 1 Mrs Biden. Composition for scholars in Book IV, prize by A J Osment, 1 Maud McLane. Fat animal, prize by W H Lee, 1 W R Bell. Three bushels of Red Fyfe wheat, prize by S P Clark, 1 W Braithwaite. Person taking greatest number of prizes in Class F (Grain), prize by S P Clark, 1 T Skinner. Penmanship competition, prizes by Dr. Kemp, 1 Clarinda Cargy, 2 R McKay. Sow with litter of pigs, prize by A Davidson, 1 A M McLane. Three bushels of white oats, prize by A W Sherwood, 1 W R Bell.

61 kb

1894 – Oct. 11 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript)

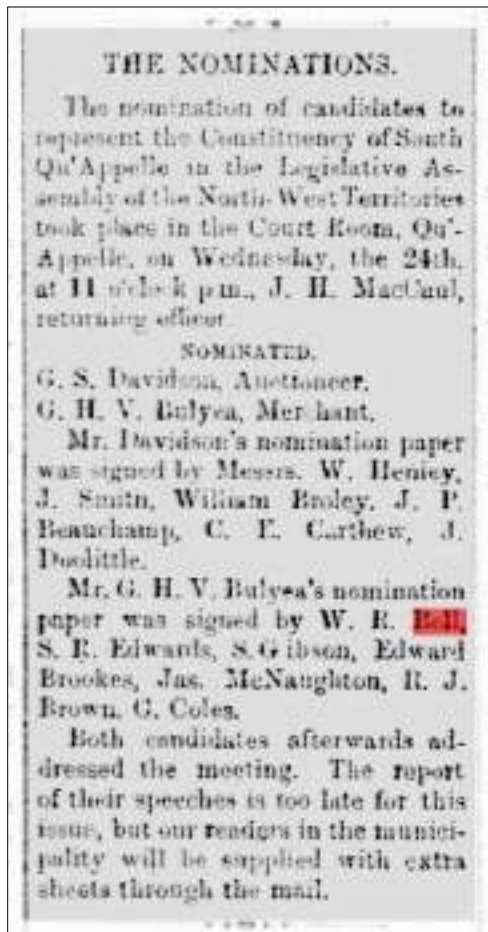
Indian Head. "Clem Peltier (maybe should be spelled "Pelletier") finished burning the last kiln at the brick yard last Friday, and will have 300,000 bricks wherewith to commence next season's business. The industry, while not productive of marked profit this season, proved sufficiently encouraging to warrant extended operations next year."

1894 – Oct. 18 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 4 - Major Bell in Qu'Appelle

"**THE WEEK'S NEWS – At Home and Abroad** - Major Bell of Indian Head was in town Monday"

"Hotel Arrivals: Leland: Major Bell, Indian Head."

1894 – Oct. 24 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 4 – Political Nomination: Bulyea supported by Bell



57 kb

1894 – Nov. 1 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 4 – Major Bell in Qu'Appelle

"**HOTEL ARRIVALS – LELAND – W.R. Bell, Indian Head**"

1894 – Nov. 1 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript)

“Mr. Davidson’s Meeting at Indian Head” [Discussing the election of a member for the Legislative Assembly representative for South Qu'Appelle, Davidson reviewed his six years as the elected representative, and also his opponent Mr. Bulyea. Then:](#)

“Major Bell championed the cause of Mr. Bulyea in that gentleman’s absence. He pointed out where he considered Mr. Davidson should have taken a different course, and suggested that the penalty suffered by the Chinese political offender be visited upon him. The speaker said what was needed in a representative was honesty, sincerity and integrity, and Mr. Davidson took advantage of the mention of these virtues to turn the laugh against the Major.”

1894 – Nov. 15 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript)

“Major Bell returned from Winnipeg Tuesday morning.”

1894 – Nov. 22 – *Regina Leader*, p. 8 – Major Bell secretary to Winnipeg Grain Exchange

“As a result of representations of Secretary Bell, of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange, to the government last week there will be no change in the grain standards this year, and before next year’s crop is harvested the whole question will have been thoroughly investigated.”

1894 – Dec. 27 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 2 – Philip Leech advertises mare that strayed from Bell Farm”

“**LOST.** STRAYED FROM THE BELL FARM about six weeks ago, one Light Bay Mare branded WR on side of head. 15¾ hands high, white hind legs, blaze on face, weight about 1,260 lbs. Finder please communicated with PHILIP LEECH, Bell Farm, Indian Head.”

1894 – Dec. 27 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript)

“A dull Christmas is an excellent indication of the stringency of the times, and Christmas in Qu'Appelle has been one of the dullest in our recollection.” [On the same front page, a tirade about the Relief Fund.](#)

# 1895

1895 – Jan. 3 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript)

[Marg: front page item on “a great deal of distress abroad,” “Hard Times at Lorie, and poor farmers with little to eat.](#)

1895 – Jan. 10 – *Qu’Appelle Progress* (Marg’s transcript)

“Major Bell was in town Friday.”

1895 – Feb 21 - *Qu’Appelle Vidette* – [check for details](#)

1895 – March 7 - - *Qu’Appelle Progress*, p. 1 - Major Bell back in Indian Head

“Major Bell arrived on Thursday, and has remained in the vicinity for the past few days.”

1895 – March 7 – *Qu’Appelle Progress*, p. 1 (Marg’s transcript)

“**Indian Head.** - On Monday A.J. Osment left for Katepwa to superintend the erection of a new boat house. In his leisure hour this winter he has constructed a steam pinnace, which is to be drawn to the lake and launched in the spring.”

“Major Bell, who seeks the nomination for the Dominion House in the Conservative interest, has been interviewing the local electors.” (Frank – this may explain why he did not leave Indian Head for the winter.)

1895 – March 21 - *Qu’Appelle Vidette* – [check for details](#)

1895 – March 22 – *Moose Jaw Herald Times* , p. 1– Supt. MacKay & Senator Perley (from Wolseley) talk to farmers

“**AGRICULTURAL LORE** - . . . . Continuing the Senator said: . . . .When I left for the North-West I was told that I was foolish. When I landed here I was disappointed. I saw fat cattle but there was a frost next morning after my arrival that froze everything solid. When Major Bell came down on a campaign in ’83 he said that Wolseley was one of the finest farming districts in the territory. He advised the farmers to keep one cow; stake her in a hay slough and feed her on straw in the winter; that you could sit on a gang plow and have a gentleman’s life farming. I said then I had no vote, but from appearances if the Major didn’t know any more about politics than he knows about farming better leave him home. I was convinced that mixed farming was the only profitable way of getting along, and I advised those who had a span of horses to convert them into cows. . . . .”

1895 – April 4 - *Qu’Appelle Vidette* – [check for details](#)

1895 – April 4 – *Qu’Appelle Progress*, p.1 (Marg’s transcript)

“Indian Head. Major Bell returned from Winnipeg on Monday, Mrs. Bell will follow during the week.”

1895 – April 11 – *Qu’Appelle Progress* (Marg’s transcript)

Indian Head. “Major Bell left for Winnipeg on Tuesday.”

1895 – April 25 - *Qu’Appelle Vidette* – [check for details](#)

1895 – April 25 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript)

Indian Head. "Major and Mrs. Bell's guests, Supt Whyte, CPR, and Messrs Aikens, Whitln and Carver, returned to Winnipeg on Friday, Supt. Whyte's private car being attached to the Atlantic express."

1895 – May 9 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript)

Local. "Major Bell and SR Edwards, Indian Head, were in town on Monday."

1895 – May 16 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript)

Indian Head. "At the Court of Revision held Saturday Major Bell appeared and asked that the block known as Market Square be assessed in his name, offering for the sum of \$350 to transfer two lots upon which the Town Hall stands, to the municipality, when the applicant was in a position to give a clear title."

"The rifle association held a meeting on Tuesday evening. Major Bell presided."

1895 – May 23 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript)

"Major Bell left for Ottawa on Sunday evening."

1895 – June 13 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript)

"Katepwe Notes. Mr. Osment has brought out his steam launch to the lake. This is the first steamboat on Lake Katepwe as far as is known, but when Katepwe becomes a railway terminus, the number will no doubt increase. This event is much to be desired as Katepwe has already extensive fisheries, a brickyard, two amateur stone masons and several expert checker players, not to mention such ordinary industries as farming and stock raising. What it would be after the advent of a railway can easily be conjectured."

"Mr. Pelletier has been making brick for the past few weeks, but not so extensively as he intends later on."

"Local and General" "Major WR Bell, Indian Head, registered at the Manitoba, Winnipeg, Saturday last."

1895 – July 4 - *Qu'Appelle Progress*: p. 1 – Major Bell advertises for horses that strayed onto the Bell Farm

"**ASTRAY.** STRAYED ON TO THE PREMISES OF the undersigned, one sorrel horse, branded **A** on rear shoulder; two white hind feet and near front foot white; one bay horse, near front foot white, white star on forehead, strip on nose; one black mare; one black mare colt, branded **H** on near shoulder, white hind feet and white star on face; one bay mare colt, branded **H** on near

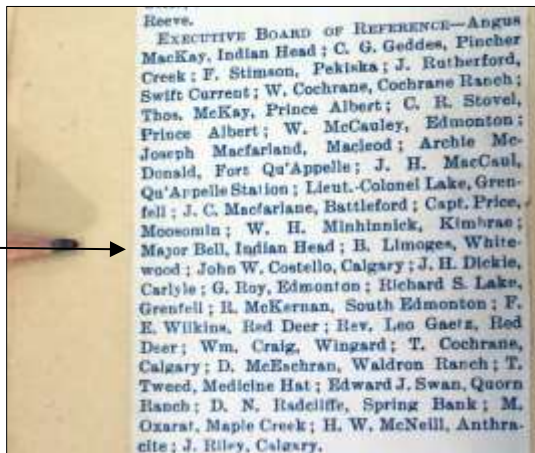
shoulder; one bay horse. The owner can have above by proving property and paying expenses.  
 W.R. Bell, Indian Head 58”

1895 – July 29 – Aug 7, North-West Territorial Exhibition – Major Bell’s participation and prizes won

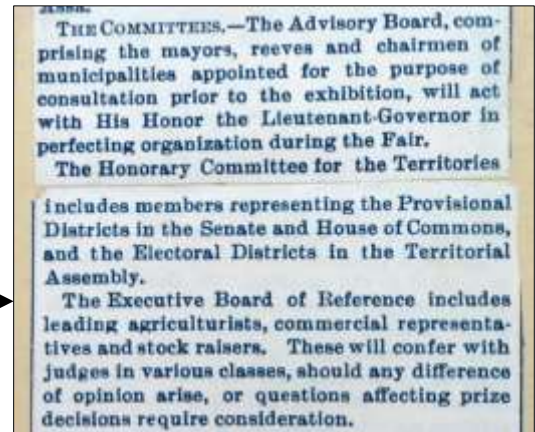
Source: NWT Exhibition of 1895 - Scrap Book – Prov. Archives of Sask: R-186 – 54 (Note: Most specific newspaper references are not included in the scrap book.)



297 kb



371 kb



303 kb

Major Bell was also part of the Executive Board of Reference; the Board’s duties are on right

Various competitions involving Major Bell and / or the Bell Farm, include the following:

OVER THE TRAPS.

Owing to some misunderstanding the shooting on the range did not begin yesterday, but the tournament opened promptly at 10 a.m., with D. McVannell, of Moose Jaw, as referee, and A. Meller, Secretary of entries. The first event was a 15 bird sweepstake, 40, 30, 20 and 10 per cent., with the following entries:—

F. W. Scott, W. F. White, J. Semen, G. Andrews, M. Ferguson, N. Dodd, J. G. Soper, O. Critchley, Calgary; W. Cockrell, Sighurst, T. K. Gregg, Regina; D. McVannell, Moose Jaw; J. J. Hewson, Regina; J. H. MacCaul, Qu'Appelle; J. P. Beauchamp, Major Bell, Indian Head; T. Jones, Regina; Wm. McNaughton, C. A. Gass, Moose Jaw; A. E. Irdale, Qu'Appelle.

The result—Scott first; Ferguson, Bell, Andrews and Critchley tied the second; Soper, MacCaul and Dodd tied third, and Gass and Hewson fourth.

The second event was the team shoot sweep, 20 birds. The following teams were selected from the different clubs.

Winnipeg Gun Club.—Geo. Andrews, J. Lemon, W. Dodd, Morley Ferguson.

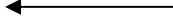
Fort Garry Gun Club.—F. W. Scott, J. G. Soper, W. F. White, F. A. Meller.

Regina Gun Club.—T. K. Gregg, Chas. Gass, J. C. Gordon, Mr. Irdale.

Qu'Appelle Gun Club.—N. R. Bell, O. R. Critchley, J. J. Hewson, J. F. MacCaul.

The Scores—Fort Garry, 62; Winnipeg, 58; Qu'Appelle, 54; Regina, 46.

F. A. Meller, Moose Jaw, made the best score, 18 out of a possible 20.



306 kb

(Above) Possibly N.R. Bell is a typo, and is supposed to be W.R. Bell? Check to see if Major Bell was a member of the Qu'Appelle Gun Club. No reference to N.R. Bell in SGS local histories or SGS obits.

them for their knowledge of what is to be seen here.

The sports on Thursday were very interesting when they got started.

Calgary carried off the palm in nearly everything. In horse racing, what could beat her horses? In the mile dash Allsmoke was easily first in 1.47, with Largetta second. Calgary won the polo game and Critchley carried away nearly every thing in the Gymkhana. Pine Creek defeated Moosomin very easily at polo. In the Gentlemen's saddle race only two started. This caused immense fun, one horse running up to first one fence and then the other, and if possible through any gate which might be open. Ovington won.

Lord and Lady Aberdeen again visited the Fair. A novel feature was the introducing of the chiefs to their Excellencies. About a dozen chiefs, dressed in their gayest, were upon the platform, while around were arranged boys and girls from the Industrial Schools, and hundreds of other Indians. It was a striking spectacle. After the chiefs had been introduced Lord Aberdeen addressed them through interpreters, thanking them for their attendance and praising the work of their children as shown at the Exhibition. The chiefs were clearly much pleased.

About 2,000 persons attended yesterday.



396 kb

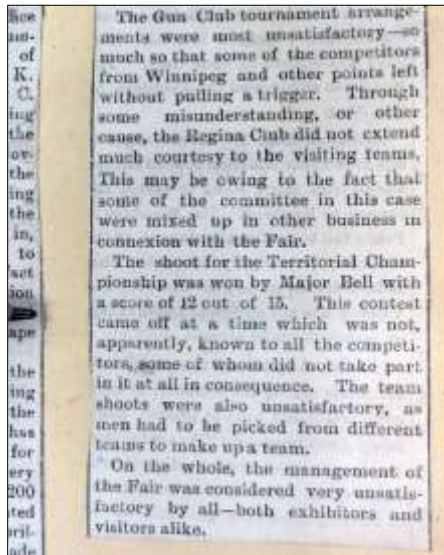


Major Bell's "Ovington" wins Gentlemen's Saddle Race



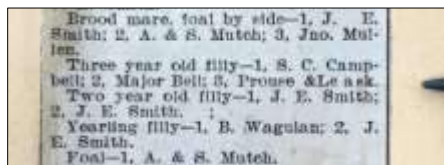
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Major Bell's "Ovington" wins horse race - bought in 1890



339 kb

Major Bell wins Territorial Championship – Gun Club Tournament



261 kb

Major Bell wins 2<sup>nd</sup> prize for Three Year Old Filly



290 kb

Major Bell wins 1<sup>st</sup> prize for barley



271 kb

Major Bell wins four grain prizes (4<sup>th</sup> arrow from top: is W.R. “White”, Indian Head and W.R. Bell the same person –typo?\_ Or should that be H.W. White of Carberry, Manitoba, or H.W. White of Calgary – lots of typos in this article.)

SEE ALSO: The Canadian North-West Territorial Exhibition – Prize List – two references:

- <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=aeu.ark:/13960/t1ng51x63;view=1up;seq=34>
- [https://ia600300.us.archive.org/33/items/cihm\\_06972/cihm\\_06972.pdf](https://ia600300.us.archive.org/33/items/cihm_06972/cihm_06972.pdf)

1895 – July - North-West Territorial Exhibition in Regina –

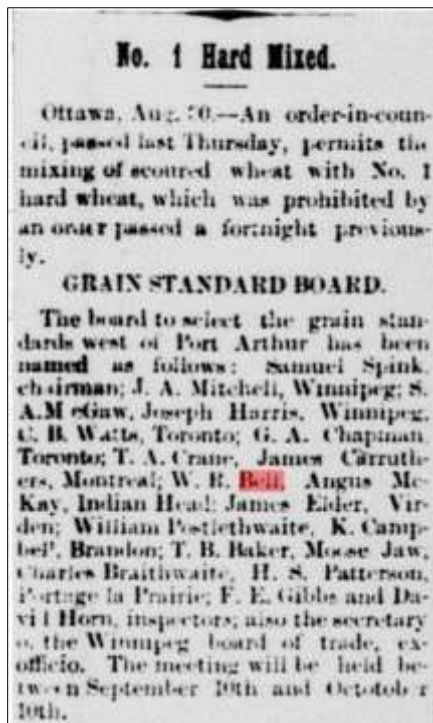
Major Bell was one of the official dignitaries and competitors, and won a major trophy:



234 kb

## 1895 – August – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
310	Aug. 21, 1895	<i>Matton ?????</i>	No Information	
311	"	J.S. Lockie	Toronto	Ontario – in 1896 James S. Lockie was Manager, Imperial Trust Company of Canada, est. June 1889 – possibly associated with the financial matters of the Bell Farm; former manager, Bank of British North America; Tyrell's Society Blue Book: member National Club, 1903-04, Toronto and member St. Andrew's Society, 1903-04.

1895 – Sept. 5 – *Brandon Mail*, p. 1 – Bell Appointed to Grain Standard Board

81 kb

## 1895 – 25 September – Foreclosure by Scottish American Investment Company, Edinburgh, Scotland

In a letter from W. John Menzies, Managing Director of the Company, Major Bell was informed that, although the Company had been involved with the Bell Farm since 1884, they were now of the opinion that their investment would not see the return that they expect, and were therefore foreclosing on their mortgage, claiming everything on the farm, and the Elevator, except for his personal goods and household furniture.

This letter probably arrived in late September or early October. **Source: ????**

1895 – Oct. 3 – *Regina Leader* – p. 8 – Course Case reserved in Russell vs Bell over wages

**Russell v. Bell.**—An action by John Russell who was a farm laborer on the Bell Farm, against **Major Bell** for wages. Defence was that Russell agreed to work the season and left in the middle of it. Plaintiff claims that as wages were payable monthly he is entitled to such as had accrued before he left. Judgment reserved.

H. A. Robson for plaintiff, A. D. Dickson for defendant.

1895 – 14 October – *Winnipeg Daily Tribune*: Monday - Katherine (Kate) Anne [Elwood] Bell dies at Indian Head of appendicitis. Van Horn's private train left for Brockville, Ont. on Tuesday night, and passed through Winnipeg on Wednesday, Oct. 16.

**DEATH OF MR. W. R. BELL.**

Wife of Major Bell, of the Celebrated Indian Head Farm.

General and profound regret was felt in the city when it was learned last evening that Mrs. W. R. Bell had died at 6:30 p.m. on Monday at her residence at Indian Head. Outside of her immediate friends it was not even known that she was unwell, and therefore the surprise was all the greater. The deceased lady was only ill six days and was not thought to be in a dangerous condition until Sunday last. The disease was appendicitis, and on Sunday morning Dr. Blanchard was summoned by wire and went out on Sir William Van Horn's private train. He arrived, however, too late for his skill to be of any avail. The remains will be taken for interment to Brockville, Ont., where the relatives of both Major Bell and Mrs. Bell reside. The deceased lady was Miss Ellwood before her marriage, and was connected with the leading families in Brockville and Eastern Ontario. She was highly accomplished, and her qualities of heart made her beloved by all with whom she came in contact. In religious life she was a Presbyterian, and attended Knox church while living in Winnipeg.

175 kb

**REMAINS OF MRS. BELL**

Pass Winnipeg En Route for Brockville—Sympathy Shown by Winnipeggers

Major Bell, of Indian Head, passed through the city to-day on his way to Brockville, Ont., with the remains of Mrs. Bell, his late wife, whose death was recorded yesterday. He was met at the station by a large number of friends, among whom were noticed Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Aikins, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Searth, Mrs. F. H. Brydges, Mr. Darby Taylor, Mrs. J. MacBeth, Capt. Donaldson, Dr. and Mrs. Blanchard, Mr. J. A. M. Aikins, Mr. Culver, Mr. J. Patterson and others. The casket was covered with wreaths and flowers of every every description. Among these were noticed additions from Winnipeggers, including a beautiful large wreath of pink roses from the Manitoba club, and others from Dr. and Mrs. Blanchard, F. H. and Mrs. Brydges, Mr. J. A. M. Aikins, Mr. J. S. and Mrs. Aikins, J. and Mrs. MacBeth, etc.

Major Bell proceeded east on his sad journey to-day and the funeral will take place at Brockville towards the end of the week.

\_\_\_ kb

*Winnipeg Daily Tribune*: (L) Oct. 15, 1895;

(R) Oct. 16, 1895

1895 – Oct. 17 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette*:

**Indian Head.**  
The sudden death of the wife of one of our most prominent citizens – Major Bell—has cast a deep gloom over the whole community. Less than a week ago Mrs. Bell was to all appearance in her usual perfect health, and she was the very last one would suppose to be chosen as a victim by the germ monster. On Wednesday, 9th inst., the deceased lady was taken ill with what seemed to be an ordinary inflammation of the bowels, and Dr. Hunt was called in and applied the usual remedies but without success. By Saturday the symptoms became alarming, and the suffering of the patient so intense that Dr. Blanchard, of Winnipeg, was telegraphed for. The

doctor arrived on Sunday afternoon and at once decided that Mrs. Bell was suffering from an attack of appendicitis, that mysterious disease which has claimed so many victims of late. He decided that a surgical operation was necessary, and this was performed on Monday. From the exhausting effects of the operation and her previous suffering, Mrs. Bell never rallied, and died quite suddenly about six o'clock on Monday evening. A funeral service was held at the residence on Tuesday forenoon, and the remains were sent east to Brockville, Ont., her former home, on Tuesday night's train, the Major accompanying them on their last journey. Much sympathy is felt for the bereaved husband in the sudden and awful blow which has fallen upon him. Mrs. Bell was 45 years of age.

1895 – Oct. 17 – *Regina Leader*, p. 9 – Death of Katherine Bell

“The wife of Major Bell of Indian Head died on Monday under an operation. The remains were taken to Brockville, Ont. for burial. Deep sympathy is felt for Major Bell in this sore bereavement.”

1895 – Oct 17 – Thursday - *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p.1

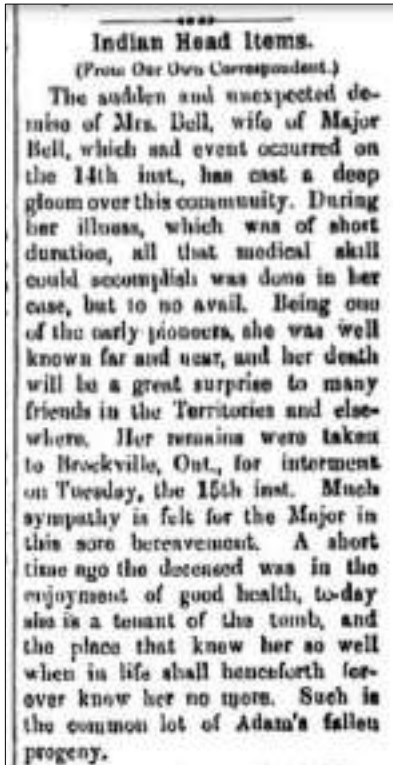
**Death of Mrs. Major Bell.**  
General and profound regret was felt in town when it was learned that Mrs. W. R. Bell had died at 6:30 p.m. on Monday at her residence at Indian Head. Outside of her immediate friends it was not even known that she was unwell, and therefore the surprise was all the greater. The deceased lady was only ill six days and was not thought to be in a dangerous condition until Sunday last. The disease was appendicitis, and on Sunday morning Dr. Blanchard was summoned by wire from Winnipeg and went out on Sir William Van Horn's private train. He arrived, however, too late for his skill to be of any avail. The remains will be taken for interment to Brockville, Ont., where the relatives of both Major Bell and Mrs. Bell reside. The deceased lady

was Miss Ellwood before her marriage, and was connected with the leading families in Brockville and Eastern Ontario. She was highly accomplished, and her qualities of heart made her beloved by all with whom she came in contact. In religious life she was a member of the Presbyterian church.

Later: Local and General: “Sir William Van Horn, president of CPR, and party passed through Qu'Appelle by special train on Sunday afternoon.”

1895 – Oct \_\_\_\_ - Katherine Anne Bell was buried in the Old Protestant Cemetery, Brockville. (Ref: Brockville Old Protestant Cemetery Burial Register, Leeds County, Elizabethtown Township, # L&G-86-2)

1895 – Oct. 24 – Thursday - *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 1

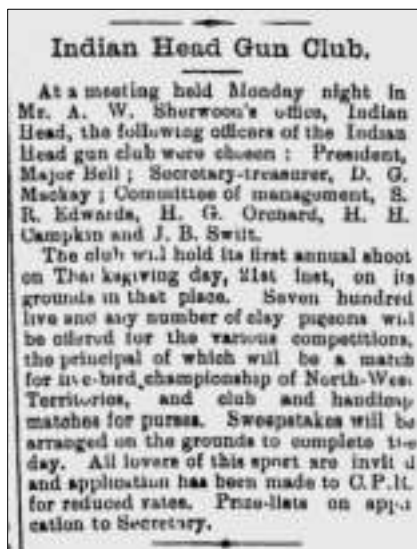


69 kb

1895 – Oct. 31 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* (Marg's transcript)

Experimental Farm had the poorest crops since its establishment.

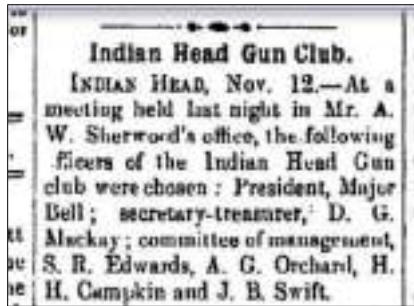
1895 – Nov. 14 – *Regina Leader* – Indian Head Gun Club – Bell president



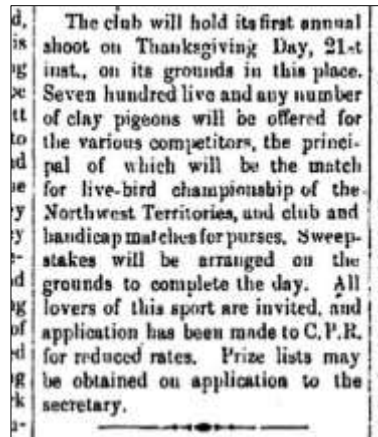
89 kb

1895 – Nov 14 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* – [check for details](#)

1895 – Nov. 14 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* – Major Bell elected President of Indian Head Gun Club



33 kb



63 kb

(Marg's transcript) "Success comes to him who waits; if so, Mr. Osment, merchant, Indian Head, will certainly reap his reward. It will pay any person to visit his store and inspect his frost-free,        that can be worked with one finger, also his improved automatic lamp. Curlers especially should examine this light."

1895 – Nov. 15 – *Moose Jaw Herald Times* – p. 8 – Major Bell president of new Indian Head Gun Club

"At a meeting of the Indian Head Gun Club, held on Monday evening of last week the following officers were chosen: President, Major Bell; secretary-treasurer, D.G. MacKay; committee of management, S.R. Edwards, A.G. Orchard, H.H. Campkin, and J.B. Swift. The Club will hold its first annual shoot on Thanksgiving Day, 21<sup>st</sup> inst, on its grounds at that place. Seven hundred live, and any number of clay pigeons will be offered for the various competitions, the principal of which will be a match for the live-bird championship of the North-West Territories, and club and handicap matches for purses. Sweepstakes will be arranged on the grounds to complete the day. All lovers of this sport are invited, and application has been made to the C.P.R. for reduced rates. Prize list on application to the secretary."

1895 – Nov. 28 – Regina Evening Leader, p. 1 – Indian Head Gun Club Match, held on Bell Farm; very cold

NOVEMBER 28, 1895.

### INDIAN HEAD.

#### Success of the Thanksgiving Day Gun Competition—List of Winners.

(Continued.)

The Indian Head Gun Club recently organized here with Major Bell as president and D. G. Mackay as secretary, held a series of matches on the Bell Farm on Thanksgiving Day. Quite a number of sportsmen from outside attended and the day was very successful from every point of view. The weather was very cold and this no doubt militated somewhat against the success of some of the marksmen, but in spite of this a large percentage of the six hundred pigeons that were released from the trap, fell as innocent victims to the relentless aim of the more hardy veterans. The gold medal given by the club for the Championship of Assiniboia was we are glad to say won by our young townsmen, Mr. D. G. Mackay, who showed a good deal of "grit" (in spite of being in such a Tux crowd) in contesting the honors with Major Bell in the final "shoot off." The following is a list of competitions with results:—

115 kb

#### CLUB MATCH.

Five birds. 28 yard rise fro three unknown traps.

A. E. Iredale, Fort Qu'Appelle.....	1 1 1 1 1-3
G. Harvey, Indian Head.....	1 1 1 1 1-3
W. R. Bell, ".....	1 1 0 1 1-4
F. G. Simpson, Winnipeg.....	1 1 0 1 1-4
J. C. Gordon, Regina.....	1 1 1 0 1-4
T. N. Christie.....	1 0 1 1 1-4
G. C. Green, Indian Head.....	1 1 0 1 1-4
J. H. Swift, ".....	0 1 1 1 1-4
H. Dickson, ".....	1 1 0 0 1-3
C. W. Milstone, Moose Jaw.....	1 0 1 0 1-3
F. A. Miller, ".....	1 1 0 0 1-3
H. Stutter, Indian Head.....	1 1 0 0 1-3
J. Waddell, Moose Jaw.....	1 0 0 1 0-3
T. K. Grigg, Regina.....	0 1 0 1 1-3
W. Kirkland, Indian Head.....	1 0 0 1 1-3
D. G. Mackay, ".....	0 0 0 1 1-3

In the shoot off for prizes A. E. Iredale won 1st, G. C. Harvey 2nd, F. G. Simpson 3rd, T. N. Christie 4th, and J. B. Swift 5th.

#### LIVE-BIRD CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH.

Five birds. 28 yard rise from three unknown traps.

G. C. Green.....	1 1 1 1 1-5
W. R. Bell.....	1 1 1 1 1-5
D. G. Mackay.....	1 1 1 1 1-5
A. E. Iredale.....	1 1 0 1 1-4
F. G. Simpson.....	1 0 1 1 1-4
J. Waddell.....	0 1 1 1 1-4
F. A. Miller.....	1 1 0 1 1-4
C. W. Milstone.....	1 0 1 1 1-4
W. Kirkland (Wagg).....	1 1 0 0 1-3
J. C. Gordon.....	0 0 1 1 1-3
T. N. Christie.....	1 0 1 0 1-3
G. Harvey.....	1 1 0 0 1-3
J. H. Swift.....	0 1 1 1 0-3
A. Dickson.....	1 0 0 0 1-2
T. K. Grigg.....	1 0 0 0 1-2
H. Stutter.....	0 0 1 0 0-1
J. Drummond.....	0 0 0 0 1-1
H. H. Campkin.....	0 0 0 0 0-0

121 kb

In shoot off D. G. Mackay won gold medal presented by the Club for the Live Bird Championship of Assiniboia; W. R. Bell won 2nd; G. C. Green, 3rd; F. A. Miller, 4th; F. G. Simpson, 5th; C. W. Milstone, 6th; A. E. Iredale, 7th.

#### HANDICAP MATCH.

Five birds from three unknown traps.

G. C. Green.....	28 22 yards.....	1 1 1 1 1-5
W. R. Bell.....	" 32 ".....	1 1 1 1 0-4
D. G. Mackay.....	" 32 ".....	1 1 1 1 0-4
T. K. Grigg.....	" 28 ".....	1 0 1 1 1-4
A. E. Iredale.....	" 32 ".....	1 1 0 1 0-3
T. N. Christie.....	" 30 ".....	0 0 1 1 1-3
W. Kirkland.....	" 30 ".....	1 0 1 1 0-3
G. Harvey.....	" 32 ".....	1 0 0 1 1-3
A. Dickson.....	" 28 ".....	0 0 0 1 1-3
J. Waddell.....	" 30 ".....	1 0 0 0 1-1
F. A. Miller.....	" 32 ".....	1 0 0 0 0-1

In shoot off G. C. Green won 1st, T. K. Grigg 2nd, W. R. Bell 3rd, D. G. Mackay 4th, W. Kirkland 5th, A. E. Iredale 6th.

#### SWEEPSTAKES.

Five birds. 20 yards rise from three unknown traps. T. K. Grigg 1st, J. B. Swift 2nd, G. C. Green 3rd, C. W. Milstone 4th.

88 kb

1895 – 28 Nov – Qu'Appelle Progress, p. 1 – Results from Indian Head Gun Club competition

The fact that Major Bell participated in the match indicates that he returned from Brockville after his wife's funeral in October.

#### Indian Head Gun Club.

The first annual shoot of the Indian Head Gun club took place on Thursday last, with the following results:

#### CLUB MATCH.

(Five birds from three unknown traps.)

A. E. Iredale, Fort Qu'Appelle.....	5
G. Harvey, Indian Head.....	5
W. R. Bell, Indian Head.....	4
F. G. Simpson, Winnipeg.....	4
J. C. Gordon, Regina.....	4
T. N. Christie, Regina.....	4
T. C. Green, Indian Head.....	4
J. B. Swift, Indian Head.....	4
A. Dickson, Indian Head.....	3
C. W. Milstone, Moose Jaw.....	3
F. A. Miller, Moose Jaw.....	3
H. Stutter, Indian Head.....	3
J. Waddell, Moose Jaw.....	2
T. K. Grigg, Regina.....	2
W. Kirkland, Indian Head.....	2
D. G. Mackay, Indian Head.....	1

In shooting off the tie, A. E. Iredale won first; G. Harvey, second; F. G. Simpson, third; T. N. Christie, fourth; J. B. Swift, fifth.

#### LIVE BIRD CHAMPIONSHIP OF

61 kb

#### LIVE BIRD CHAMPIONSHIP OF ASSINIBOIA.

Five birds from three unknown traps, with twenty-eight yards rise.

G. C. Green.....	5
W. R. Bell.....	5
D. G. Mackay.....	5
A. E. Iredale.....	4
F. G. Simpson.....	4
J. Waddell.....	4
F. A. Miller.....	4
C. W. Milstone.....	4
H. W. Folland.....	3
J. C. Gordon.....	3
T. N. Christie.....	3
G. Harvey.....	3
J. B. Swift.....	3
A. Dickson.....	2
T. K. Grigg.....	2
W. Kirkland.....	1
H. Stutter.....	1
J. Drummond.....	0
H. Campkin.....	0

In the shoot off, D. G. Mackay won the gold medal presented by the club for live bird championship of Assiniboia; W. R. Bell, second prize; G. C. Green, third; F. A. Miller, fourth; F. G. Simpson, fifth; C. W. Milstone, sixth; A. E. Iredale, seventh.

#### HANDICAP MATCH.

58 kb

#### HANDICAP MATCH.

(Five birds from three unknown traps.)

G. C. Green.....	5
D. G. Mackay.....	4
W. R. Bell.....	4
T. K. Grigg.....	4
A. E. Iredale.....	3
T. N. Christie.....	3
W. Kirkland.....	3
G. Harvey.....	3
A. Dickson.....	2
J. Waddell.....	1
F. A. Miller.....	1

In the shoot off, G. C. Green won 1st prize; T. K. Grigg, second; W. R. Bell, third; D. G. Mackay, fourth; W. Kirkland, fifth; A. E. Iredale, sixth.

#### SWEEPSTAKE MATCH.

1st Prize.....	T. K. Grigg
2nd ".....	J. B. Swift
3rd ".....	G. C. Green
4th ".....	C. W. Milstone

53 kb



1895 – December – Visitors Register

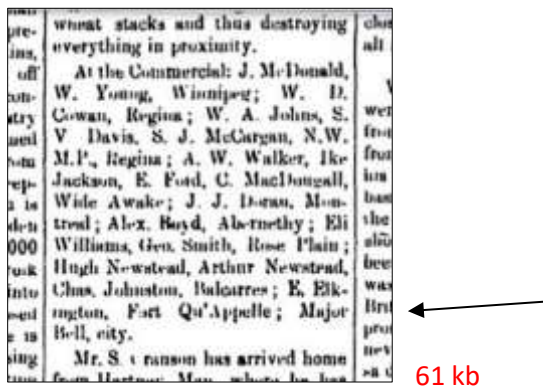
Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
312	Dec. 1, 1895	M.J. Elwood	Toronto	Ontario – probably Mary Jane Elwood, Catherine Bell’s mother

1895 – Dec. 1 – M.J. Elwood – presumed to be Katherine Bell’s mother (Mary Jane Elwood) visited the Bell Farm and was the last person to sign the Bell Farm Visitor’s Register. It is conjectured that she came to see the place where her daughter lived for 13 years, and where she died on Oct. 14, 1895. As well, she might have come to retrieve some of Katherine’s possessions before the Bell Farm was sold.

1895 – Dec 5 – *Qu’Appelle Progress*, p.1 – Bell Elevator

“The boiler and engine of Bell’s elevator is taking a rest. Too much hard work is the cause. They have substituted a threshing machine in place of the other.”

1895 – Dec 19 – *Qu’Appelle Progress* – p, 3 – “**INDIAN HEAD - . . . . At the Commercial: . . . . Major Bell, city**” – (Frank: does his residence in the Commercial Hotel mean that Major Bell has already left the Bell Farm, and is now residing in either Regina or Winnipeg?)



Also repairs to the Elevator completed:

“The boiler and engine of Bell’s elevator are again in full swing, having undergone some repairs in the way of a new set of flues and a general overhauling.”

1895 – Deterioration of the Bell Farmhouse and round barn – interview with Philip Leech, former Bell Farm foreman, as reported in the 17 Dec. 1957 *Regina Leader Post* article, p. 2:

The Bell Farm “had the coldest sleeping quarters in the West . . . . Single men were housed in a large bunkhouse with thick stone walls in which were many holes. When it was 40 below outside it was 42 below inside . . . . He never determined why the now famous round barn, still standing near Indian Head, was built that way, ‘but I remember in ’95 part of one wall fell out and they had a deuce of a time fixing it.’ ”

# 1896

1896 – Jan. 16 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

Indian Head. "The annual meeting of ratepayers was held in the school house on the 3<sup>rd</sup> inst to transact the usual business connected with the school District. The retiring trustee was Mr. A.J. Osment, who has served the school district in this capacity for nine years. Mr. Osment's services have been so satisfactory in this office that the ratepayers thought well to re-elect him for a fourth term."

1896 – Feb. 6 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* – [check for details](#)

1896 – Feb. 8 – Bell's Scottish investors filed claim for \$124,810.33 – [check for details](#)

1896 – Feb. 13 – *Regina Leader*, p. 8 – Bell elected V.P of Canadian military institute

"At the annual meeting of the Canadian military institute, held last week, Major Bell, of Indian Head, N.W.T., was elected one of the vice presidents, along with Col. Gwynn, of Dundas, Col. Tyrwhitt, M.P., Col. Buchan, Col. Hamilton, and Major Farewell."

1896 - Feb 13 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

"Major Bell of Indian Head has been elected a vice president (Marg: *I think the word is 'president;' it is very blurred*) of the Canadian military institute."

1896 – March 5 – *Regina Evening Leader*, p.8 , col. 3 – Major Bell returns to Indian Head from visit to East

"Major Bell, of Indian Head, has returned from a visit to the east."

1896 – March 26 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript) – Sheppard takes over Bell Farm management

"Mr. Geo. Willis and family arrived on Monday the 16<sup>th</sup> inst, to take the management of Lord Brassey's Farm here. Mr. F. Sheppard, the late manager, will have the management of the Bell Farm, in the interest of the Mortgage Co., represented by Mr. J.A.M. Aikins, of Winnipeg, for the present season."

“Mr. C. Langlois and family arrived from Minneapolis last Wednesday and purpose making this country their future home. Mr. Langlois is a brother-in law of Mr. C. Pelletier of Katepwa and purposes entering into partnership with him in the manufacture of brick etc.”)

“Mr. A.J. Osment has quite a force of men at work putting things in shape for his brick yard.”

1896 – April 1 – *Nor’Wester* (Winnipeg), p. 8 – Bell Farm to be broken up into ¼ sections – check for details

1896 – April 2 – *Regina Evening Leader*, p.8 – Bell Farm to be divided into ¼ sections

“Mr. Davidson, proprietor of the Indian Head Hotel, is in the city [Regina] for the purpose of making preparations for the building of a new hotel structure to replace his present one. Mr. Davidson said last evening that the people of Indian Head were greatly pleased over the announcement that the Bell farm was to be divided into quarter sections. It will greatly assist in building up the town, and increasing the retail trade, if the property is settled by good farmers. – *Free Press*”

1896 – April 2 - *Qu’Appelle Vidette* – check for details

1896 – April 4 – Supreme Court of the North-West Territories awards Bell’s Scottish creditors their claim, which resulted in them taking over the Bell Farm and all its assets – check for details

1896 – April 16 – *Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 1 – Weeds on Bell Farm

“REGINA STANDARD: ‘The question raised by our Saltoun correspondent, why the government should select the district which the Bell farm has infested with noxious weeds as the place to buy seed grain for distribution, is a query quite in order.’”

1896 – April 22 – *Lethbridge News*, p. 2 – Bell Farm to be broken into ¼ sections

“The Bell farm at Indian Head is to be broken up into quarter sections. The people in the neighbourhood are much pleased about this, as it will increase business there.”

1896 – 23 April – *Qu’Appelle Progress*, p. 3 – Bell Farm to be broken up into ¼ sections

“The Bell farm at Indian Head is to be broken up into quarter sections. The people in the neighbourhood are much pleased about this, as it will increase business there.”

1896 – 24 April – *Moose Jaw Times* – Bell Farm to be broken up into ¼ sections

“The Bell farm at Indian Head is to be broken up into quarter sections. The people in the neighbourhood are much pleased about this, as it will increase business there.”

1896 – May 14 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

“It is reported that private information has been received that we may expect to see Major Bell back shortly.”

1896 – May 28 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript) – Bell Property For Sale

“Major Bell's property which is to be offered for sale on the 30<sup>th</sup> inst comprises 73 horses, 13 cattle, elevator, household furniture etc. While of course we are sorry that circumstances required the disposal of those effects, there can be no doubt that if the outcome in the breaking up of the Bell farm into numerous farms of the average size, it will be immensely to the advantage of the town and district. If offered in quarter sections at a reasonable price, this rich piece of land can scarcely fail to speedily become the home of a number of prosperous farmers.”

1896 – June 4 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* – [check for details](#)

1896 – June 11 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

“The sale of the Bell elevator takes place on Saturday.”

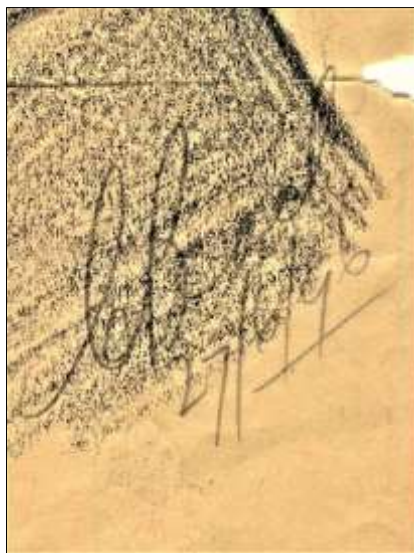
1896 – June 18 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

“Major Bell's favourite old horse Ovington met with an accident on the farm yesterday and had to be shot.” (Frank: looks like the world is collapsing all around Major Bell during the past year or two.: the elevator and flour mill burned in Sept. 1893; the creditors have taken over the Farm in Sept. 1895.); his wife Katherine died in Oct. 1895, and his horse Ovington died in June 1896)

1896 – June 27 – Major Bell has a sketch drawn of himself by an unidentified artist, while participating in a shooting match at the Indian Exhibition in London. (See below: 1896 – 21 July - *The Bideford Weekly Gazette*)



68 kb



284 kb

1896 – July 9 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

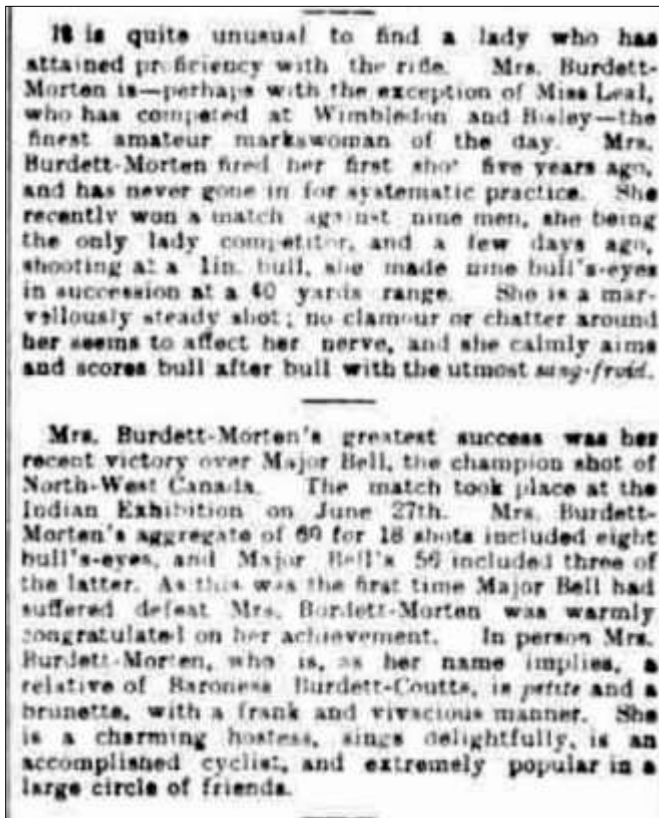
under the Fort Qu'Appelle head, a report on a church picnic at Vidal's Point. "... Mr. Osment's steam launch 'Loretta' as a pleasing feature of the amusements provided . . ."

1896 - July 17 1896 - *Moose Jaw Times*, p. 8 **NOTE: Bell's address is Winnipeg, not Indian Head**

"Quite a number of our Canadian marksmen are taking part in the annual rifle shooting contests and Bisley, England, and are doing remarkably well. Major Bell, of Winnipeg, who retired from active service some 25 years ago, has entered for the Queen's prize."

1896 – 21 July - *The Bideford Weekly Gazette* –

Major Bell is beaten in a rifle competition by Mrs. Burdett-Morten – first loss for the Major. This article also confirms that Major Bell was in England on June 27, 1896, attending the Indian Exhibition.



154 kb

1896 – July 23 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

July 23, 1896: (Marg: I just noticed the paper is called *The Vidette* now, not the *Qu'Appelle Vidette*. This probably happened Feb 27, 1896 when "The Vidette appears today in a new form and dress. It will in future be issued in the joint interests of the Fort Qu'Appelle and Indian Head districts.")

1896 – July 30 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

“Mr. Osment successfully completed the burning of his first kiln of brick last week and claims he will be able to supply a better and larger brick than any heretofore placed on the local markets.”

1896 – Aug. 20 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

“Wheat cutting began on the Bell Farm on Monday last.”

1896 – Aug. 27 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

“Mr. Osment's fence has been beautified and made an instrument for the enlightenment of the passer-by. The far famed Dick Burden did the deed.”

**under the head of Fort Qu'Appelle:** “Mr. A.J. Osment of Indian Head has brought his steam pleasure launch ‘Loretta’ from the lower lake , and will make the fort its headquarters for a few days. The removal was made without much difficulty on Monday, the boat being taken out at the Mission bridge, brought up on a trolley and put into the water again at the boat house. It has since made several trips up the lake.”

1896 – Sept. 3 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

**Under the Fort Qu'Appelle head:** “Mr. A.J. Osment returned to Indian Head on Thursday evening last. His steam launch was taken back to the lower lakes the same day.”

The Vidette (Fort Qu'Appelle & Indian Head)	September 10, 1896		“Mortgage Sale of Valuable Farm Property commonly known as The Bell Farm”
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1896 – Sept. 10 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* (Marg's transcript)

“Mortgage Sale of Valuable Farm Property commonly known as The Bell Farm” To take place Oct 20, 1896. Lists the legal descriptions of the land, as well as “22 cottages, 16 stables, 20 granaries (one of which is very large), one implement shed, one blacksmith shop and one large dwelling house.” **This ad runs for several subsequent weeks.**

“Mr. Adam Cantelon of Lorie, who has been working in this vicinity for the past few weeks, has secured the contract of large stone barn in the neighbourhood of Wolseley, and together with his assistant will depart for that burgh in a few days.” **(Frank: Cantalon built the Motherwell stone buildings, and is featured in *Legacy of Stone*)**

1896 – Sept. 16 – *Manitoba Free Press*, p. 6 –

Advertisement for Mortgage Sale of the Bell Farm on 20 Oct. 1896, by Aikins, Culver, McClenaghan (Winnipeg Lawyers) – **check for details**

1896- Sept. 17 – *Regina Evening Leader* – p. 8, col. 4 – Sheriff’s Sale of Bell Farm

“The Bell farm at Indian Head will be put up for sale by the sheriff on Oct. 20.”

1896 – Sept. 18 – *Moose Jaw Times* , p.8 – Auction of Bell Farm set for Oct. 20

“The Bell Farm at Indian Head will be sold by public auction on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October.”

1896 – Sept. 24 - *Qu’Appelle Progress*, p. 4 – sale of Bell Farm’s grain elevator

“R.P. Roblin, of Winnipeg, has bought the Balgonie elevator and also the Bell elevator at Indian Head. Things look as if the grain men are anxious to secure our western wheat this year. There are no less than four or five buyers in each district.”

1896 – Oct. 8 – *Qu’Appelle Vidette* (Marg’s transcript)

“Mr. A.J. Osment is burning another kiln of brick.”

Also, “We are informed that Mr. Roblin has only rented the Bell elevator, not bought it.”

1896 – Oct. 22 – *Qu’Appelle Vidette* (Marg’s transcript)

Marg: ad for bricks by Osment.

1896 – Nov. 5 – *Qu’Appelle Vidette* (Marg’s transcript)

“Work has commenced on the excavation of a cellar for a large brick hotel, which Mr. Osment intends building in the spring on the property adjoining his store. The building is to be of solid brick, 50 by 80, and three stories high. This is not the slightest doubt but that it will be another great improvement to the town.”

The Vidette ???	Nov. 19, 1896		“Local News: Indian Head” – refers to Bell in far left column
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1896 – Nov. 19 – *Qu’Appelle Vidette* (Marg’s transcript)

Marg: a longish report about Major Bell’s marksmanship at an event in England. Includes much about various female participants.

1896 – Dec. 3 – *Qu’Appelle Vidette* (Marg’s transcript)

“Mr. A.J. Osment’s brick yard turned out some 400,000 bricks this season, quantities of which were sent to Grenfell and Qu’Appelle Station. Mr. Osment has enough on hand to start on his new hotel building next spring.”

1896 – Dec. 17 - *Qu’Appelle Vidette* – check for details

1896 – Dec 24 – *Regina Evening Leader*, p. 8 – Brassey & Bell farms open for purchase

“The Brassey and Bell Farms at Indian Head are now thrown open for purchase and settlement in small holdings, whereat the citizens of the town and country generally are well pleased.”

# 1897

1897 – Bell, W.R. , Bell Farm, Indian Head – Henderson’s Manitoba and NWT Gazetteer and Directory, p. 391

1897 – 31 March - Bell marries Catherine Ormiston from Newcastle-on-Tyne, England

They eventually move to Brockville and then on to Winnipeg –

[Source: *Winnipeg Free Press* - Feb 13, 1902,]

1897 – March 31 - *Qu’Appelle Vidette* – [check for details](#)

1897 – May 6 – *Qu’Appelle Progress*, p. 1

“The Bell Farm lost a stable by fire while burning stubble.”

1897 – 15 May - "London Colonial Club Dinner" Colonies and India May 15 1897 Major WR Bell attended

1897 – May 19 - *Qu’Appelle Vidette* – [check for details](#)

1897 - May 26 – *Qu’Appelle Vidette* (Marg’s Transcript):

"The Brassey Farm has 1700 acres of wheat and the Bell Farm 1,400 this year notwithstanding that some of cultivated portions of the latter were among the lands disposed of this winter."

1897 - June 2 – *Qu’Appelle Vidette* (Marg’s Transcript):

"Mr. George Thompson has purchased the half of 26, known as Major Bell's corral."

1897 - June 4 – Professor Tanner dies at Exeter, England

(Source: Henry Tanner biography, by Antony Chapman, England – 2017)



1897 – June 17 – *Manitoba Free Press*:

“Supreme court for West Assiniboia opened this morning before Judge Richardson.... Mr. Ford Jones asked for an order that an agreement entered into by Major W.R. Bell for the purchase of lands at Indian Head be declared void and cancelled, for non-payment of the instalments, and the moneys already paid be forfeited . Granted.”

1897 - June 22 – *Toronto Daily Mail and Empire* , p. 3, col. 1 – Major Bell at Islington, England

Major Bell attended the Royal Military Tournament at Islington to watch the 48<sup>th</sup> Highlanders compete. “The immense audience cheered again and again. Major Bell, of the Bell Farm, Indian Head, witnessed the combat, and many other Canadians.”

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=36&dat=18970622&id=DkQ1AAAAIBAJ&sjid=1ygDAAAIBAJ&pg=6216,6039016>

1897 – June 30 - *Qu’Appelle Vidette* – [check for details](#)

# 1898

(Marg: I am also taking notes on Brassey entries: one of them may be of use to you because Brassey bought much of the land sold at the dissolution of Bell’ corporate farm. My notation is as follows: Feb 2, 1898 (or possibly Jan 26): Legal description of land sold in 1897 from Brassey estate. Includes buyers’ names.)

1898 – Jan. 26 - *Qu’Appelle Vidette* – list of lands that were formerly part of the Bell Farm, and later part of the Brassey Estate and Scottish-American Estate. (see map below in 1902 section for some of the land locations)

LANDS SOLD DURING 1897.		
We are indebted to Mr. F. Shepherd for the following list of lands sold by him, as agent for the Brasscy and Scottish American estates.		
BRASSEY ESTATE.		PURCHASER.
N $\frac{1}{2}$	12, 18, 13,	Alex Boyd
S $\frac{1}{2}$	12, 18, 13,	Wm. Kennedy
Whole of	7, 18, 12,	John Boyd
SE $\frac{1}{4}$	14, 18, 13,	Peter Martin
Whole of	7, 19, 12,	T. Livingston
E $\frac{1}{2}$	22, 19, 13,	Ric. Bailey
E $\frac{1}{2}$	6, 19, 12,	Des. Cargo
W $\frac{1}{2}$	6, 19, 12,	Alex Skene
S $\frac{1}{2}$	21, 19, 13,	W. Braithwaite
E $\frac{1}{2}$ s. 7, all	8, 19a, 12,	Theo. Sharp
E $\frac{1}{2}$	8, 19, 12,	C. W. Hunt
S of C.P.R	17, 18, 12,	Jas. Harrop
Whole of	13, 19, 13,	H. Loveless
SE $\frac{1}{4}$	12, 19, 13,	{ J. Matheson J. Brathwaite
SCOTTISH AMERICAN ESTATE.		
S $\frac{1}{2}$	5, 19a, 12,	Geo. Ferguson
N $\frac{1}{2}$	5, 19a, 12,	David Fwart
Whole of	6, 19a, 12,	Ben Holden
Whole of	1, 19, 13,	M. McDermid
E $\frac{1}{2}$	20, 18, 12,	H. T. Smith
and part	17, 18, 12,	
W $\frac{1}{2}$	20, 18, 12,	Wm. Douglas
and part	17, 18, 12,	
Whole of	21, 18, 12,	{ Boden and Brentnell.
Whole of	33, 18, 12,	W. H. Stephens
W $\frac{1}{2}$	30, 18, 12,	W. R. Patterson
N. C.P.R	23, 18, 13,	Angus Mackay
Whole of	31, 18, 12,	Jas. Harvey

1898 – July – Creation of General Service Medals:

The Canadian Militia’s General Order 63 calls for creation of General Service Medals to include the Fenian Raids of 1866 and 1870 and the Red River Expedition of 1870. (EFK - Major Bell is eligible to apply for the Fenian Raid medals.)

Source: Sessional Papers, 1899, No. 19, p. 29

1898 – Oct. 7 – *Moose Jaw Times*, p. 4 – Search for Stray Animals by George Philips

**“NOTICE OF LOST ANIMALS.**

\$10 Reward. Strayed from Indian Head. August 11<sup>th</sup> 1897, one dark sorrel horse pony, white face. 2 white hind legs, branded monogram HR on left shoulder, had leather halter on with piece of rope attached; and one light sorrel pony mare, white face, 3 white legs, white spot on left side, branded monogram HR on left shoulder, had leather halter on with piece of rope attached, expected to have foal at foot. Geo. Philips. Indian Head. Bell Farm.”

# 1899

1899 – According to the 1901 Census:

The Bell family moved from Ireland back to Canada, resident in Brockville at time of the Census. Family: William & Catherine, and daughter Nora, who was born in April, 1899 in Ireland. (EFK comment: The 1906 census states they returned to Canada in 1900. As the 1901 census was much closer to the time of the move, I presume that the 1899 date is more likely to be correct.)

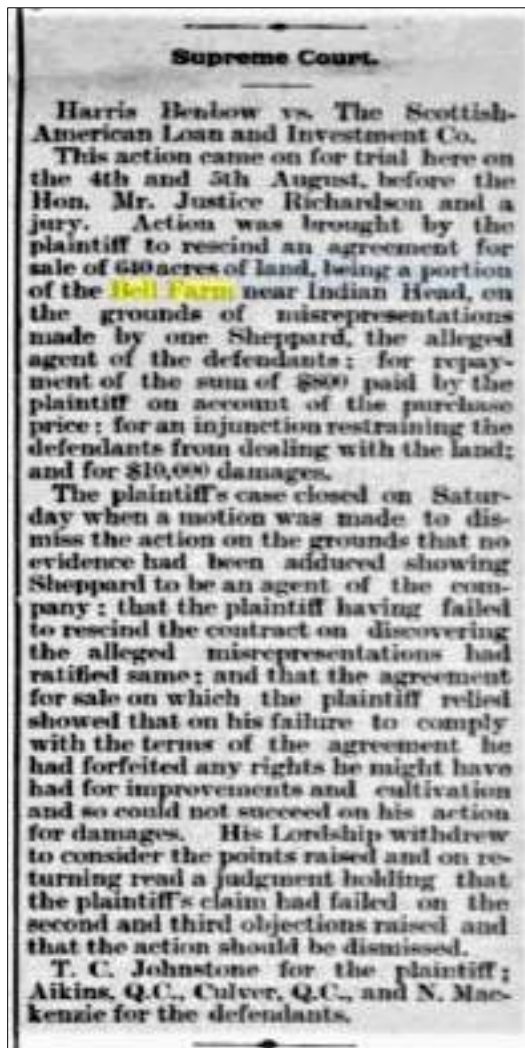
1899 – January - Government of Canada issues medals for Fenian Raids.

“The medal was authorized in January 1899, 29 years after the last event it commemorated.”

(Source: Canadian General Services Medal – Veterans Affairs Canada:

<http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/medals-decorations/details/1>

1899 – Aug. 10 – *Regina Leader*, p. 1 – Court Case: Sale of Bell farm lands: Benbow vs Scottish Syndicate – Benbow lost.



134 kb

# 1900

1900 – Jan. 9 – *Ottawa Citizen* – Major Bell in Ottawa

“Major Bell, of the Bell Farm, is town staying at the Russell”

1900 – Feb. 8 – *Regina Leader*, p. 1 – Major Bell back in Indian Head

“INDIAN HEAD: Major Bell, formerly connected with the Bell farm here, renewed old acquaintances in town last week.”

1900 – Feb. 8 – *Regina Leader*, p. 8 – Bell back in Canada and in Regina

“Major Bell, formerly owner of the Bell farm at Indian Head, and who has resided for some time past in England, has returned to Canada and was in Regina on Saturday last. The Major may again take up residence at Indian Head.”

1900 – May 3 - *Calgary Herald* - Bell involved with North West Irrigation Company

“Major Bell, the late manager of the well known mammoth farm at Indian Head, which is now divided into small holdings, has transferred the scene of his operations to Alberta. He has taken hold of an irrigated farm of 3000 acres on the big canal of the North West Irrigation company.”

[Michelle’s Note: The *Calgary Herald* report is likely speculation - Major Bell was friendly with Elliott Torrance Galt (son of Sir A.T. Galt) of the North West Irrigation Co. and probably just visiting... perhaps with the next venture in mind!]

1900 – July 19 – Qu’Appelle Progress, p. 5 – Osment to start brickmaking

“LEBRET – Mr. A.J. Osment came out from Indian Head on Monday. Mr. Osment intends starting operations in his brickyard this week.”

1900 – Aug. 22 – *Nassau- Bahamas etc.* – Major Bell and Mr. Kaufhold to Abaco to inspect forest

“Major Bell of Canada who was a passenger by the *Saratoga* which arrived from New York on Monday sailed in the schooner Admiral yesterday afternoon to visit Abaco. We understand that his intention is to see the pine forests of that island with the view of ascertaining information which, if satisfactory, may lead to the establishing of an important industry in the Colony. Major Bell is accompanied by Mr. A.J. Kaufhold.”

1900 – Aug. 29 – *Nassau- Bahamas etc.* – Major Bell and associates to inspect forests on Andros Island

“Major Bell and his party returned from Green Turtle Cay, Abaco, by the schooner Admiral on Sunday afternoon and again sailed yesterday morning for Andros to inspect the pine forests of that island.”

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1900 – Oct. 31 – *Nassau-Bahamas etc.* – Major Bell on board the SANTIAGO

“On Monday in the steamship Santiago from New York, Miss Vernon, . . . . . Major Bell . . . . . R. Bowie, . . . . . and E.R. Bowling.”

1900 – Nov. 10. – *Nassau-Bahamas etc.* – Major Bell, from Marsh Harbour, on ALBERTINE ADOUE

“This morning in the schooner Albertine Adoue from Green Turtle Cay, Abaco, Mrs Pinder, Miss Albury, Mr Sands and family; Marsh Harbour, Major Bell; Cherokee Sound, Messrs. John Bethel, Moses W. Sawyer and Percy E. Lowe.”

1900 – Nov. 14 – *Nassau-Bahamas etc.* – Major Bell and R. Bowie on SARATOGA for New York-Canada

“We understand that Major Bell has concluded an arrangement with the Government and that it is probable that the felling of timber at Abaco will commence at an early date.

Major Bell sailed yesterday for Canada via New York on the s.s. *Saratoga* accompanied by Mr. R. Bowie.”

1900 – Nov. 14 – *Nassau-Bahamas etc.* – Major Bell, Bowling and Bowie on SANTIAGO for New York

“PASSENGER SAILED. On Sunday morning in the sch. Signal for the Bight, San, Salvador, Mr. C.J. Moore.

Yesterday in the s.s. “Santiago” for New York, Major Bell, Mr. E.R. Bowling and Mr. R. Bowie.”

# 1901

1901 – Feb. 6 – Bahamas – *Nassau-Bahamas etc.* – Major Bell and Bell Farm investor Jules Burwell visit Abaco

“Just arrived – Major Bell who I need hardly say is welcome. He is accompanied by Mr. J.H. Burwell of Chicago, Ill. These gentlemen are visiting us in connection with the prospective Lumber Industry of Abaco.

RUSTICUS, Cherokee Sound, Abaco”

[Michelle’s Note : I noticed that Burwell accompanied Major Bell to the Bahamas but appears not to have invested in the Abaco lease.]

1901 – Census – Major Bell, Catherine, and Nora living in Brockville, Ontario

## 1901 – Move from Brockville to Winnipeg

Major and Catherine Bell and family move from Brockville to Winnipeg, after the 1901 Census places them in Brockville. They buy and move into the Daniel McMillan House, at 147 Carlton Street, who moved to Government House after his appointment as Manitoba's new Lieut. Governor. The Bell family owned the house until 1928.

*Note: there is no entry for W.R. Bell in 1901 Henderson's Directory for Winnipeg; 147 Carlton listed as VACANT (page numbers missing from book)*

1901 – Aug. 7 – *Nassau-Bahamas etc.* – Major Bell arrives from New York on SANTIAGO for visit to Abaco

"Major Bell was a passenger by the s.s. *Santiago* which arrived from New York on Monday. He will visit Abaco in connection with the timber business which we understand will be started there very soon."

1901 – Aug. 10 – *Nassau-Bahamas etc.* – Major Bell and Mr. Barry travel to Abaco

**"SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.** The Am. steam tug "*Biscayne*," Fazzard master, from Jacksonville, called here yesterday morning on her way to Abaco. Mr Barry who is on her, will join Major Bell, he having sailed from Nassau on Wednesday afternoon last on business in connection with the proposed timber interest. She sailed for Abaco last night."

1901 – Aug. 11 – *Regina Leader*, p. 8 – John Matere, Bell Farm employee arrested

"A man giving the name of John Matere, an employee on the Bell Farm, has been arrested at Indian Head by town constable Sample, who caught him in the act of stealing goods from Crawford's store. A search of Matere's premises revealed the fact that he had been engaged in the practice for some time, notwithstanding he had some \$400 to his credit in the bank."

1901 – Aug. 21 – *Nassau-Bahamas etc.* – Major Bell sails on SANTIAGO to New York

**"PASSENGERS SAILED.** Yesterday in the s.s. "*Santiago*" for New York Mr and Mrs E.H. Curry . . . . Major Bell, . . . .Lewis Taylor."

1901 – Sept. 11 – *Nassau-Bahamas etc.* – Rusticus on Major Bell's lumber business plans

"As for ourselves, we expect soon to be doing a humming business somewhere near Spencer's Point. If our Major Bell succeeds in forming his lumber company, we will soon be hearing the sweet music of a buzz saw.

Weather red hot and still heating.

RUSTICUS Cherokee Sound, 31<sup>st</sup> August, 1901."

# 1902

Note: there is no 1902 Henderson Directory for Winnipeg available



Map showing Brasseley Lands in ca. 1902 (orange), within and outside the Bell Farm boundaries of 1886 (yellow)

1902 - Feb 13 - *Winnipeg Free Press* - Reports that Major Bell has arrived in Winnipeg after an absence of 6 years and has been living in the Bahamas (see below: 1902 – Feb.20 – *Regina Leader* – p. 8 )

1902 – Feb.20 – *Regina Leader* – p. 8 - Major Bell returns to Winnipeg - (“the city” refers to Winnipeg)

“Major Bell formerly of Indian Head, arrived in the city yesterday after an absence of six years, and was warmly greeted. Major Bell is now a resident of the Bahama group of islands, owning two. He states he is another Robinson Crusoe, and is looking for a man Friday, but Friday must have capital to develop the richness of the soil. Major Bell is a guest at the Leland. – Free Press”

1902 – May 28 - *Winnipeg (Free Press ?)* – reference to Major Bell’s financial dealings in Arcola

“**Thirty-five Years Ago** – May 28, 1902 – Major Bell, former owner of the big Bell farm at Indian Head, was now a booster for the Arcola district, which he had visited recently with a party of American investors; he said there would be as much wheat grown there in the future as in the whole of Manitoba”

1902 – June 5 – *Regina Leader*, p. 8 – Major Bell predicts large grain crops for North-West Territories

“Major Bell, formerly owner of the Bell Farm, Indian Head, predicts that inside of five years there will be 100,000,000 bushels of wheat grown in the North-West Territories.”

1902 – Oct. 25 – *Manitoba Free Press* – Report on Indian Head region, including Bell and Experimental Farms.

This is a three-page long article – too long to reproduce here. It contains general observations on the productivity of the region, and on the great variety of crops, fruits and tress grown on the Dominion Experimental Farm at Indian Head.

As well there is a report that H.H. Campkin had acquired part of the Bell Farm lands and the Bell Farmhouse:

“Mr. Campkin came to the town in 1884 from England. He is clerk of the town of Indian Head and also secretary of the board of trade. He does an extensive real estate, loan and insurance business, and is one of the busiest men in the Northwest Territories, being always besieged by clients – the results of judicious advertising in the Free Press. He has at the present time a large list of lands for sale at from \$5 to \$15 per acre, according to location, and the amount of improvements. Mr. Campkin has an established business reputation and those who may write to him for information may rely upon receiving trustworthy replies. In addition to the extensive business mentioned, Mr. Campkin farms in conjunction with his brother, a 1,000 acre farm, part of the famous Bell farm, with the buildings thereof. Three hundred acres of this farm were in crop this year. Wheat averaged 37 bushels to the acre. Mr. Campkin is treasurer of the diocesan synod of Qu’Appelle.”



# 1903

**Note:** there is no entry for W.R. Bell in 1903 Henderson's Directory for Winnipeg; p. 67: MacKenzie & Mann listed for 147 Carlton (MacKenzie & Mann were the chief officers of the Canadian Northern Railway Company – and probably not resident in Winnipeg, but possibly owned the house.)

1903 – *Canadian Forestry Assoc. Annual Report*, p. 71 – Major Bell – strong wind anecdote

Mr. Knechtel, talking about the need for the establishment of more shelterbelts: "I was at the hotel in Regina [several years ago]. Major Bell came down there one morning and he said to the hotel keeper: 'I have some new more land.' 'Well', the hotel keeper said, "I should think that a man with 4,000 acres had enough." Major Bell said: 'I could not help getting this land because there was a high wind last night and it blew the Experimental Farm over to my property.' The hotel keeper said: 'Are you going to keep it?' 'No,' replied Major Bell; 'the wind may change to-night and blow it all back.'

1903 – Jan. 14 – *Nassau-Bahamas etc.* – Update on Major Bell's lumber business plans

"Abaco Pine is again to the front and we soon expect to see, or I ought to say hear, a Saw Mill of considerable capacity in full working order. Major Bell of Canada who is the promoter of this great enterprise, is now negotiating with some big lumbermen for the transfer of his lease on the Pine Forests of the Island. There are hundreds of millions of feet of good Pine timber awaiting capital wherewith to start the greatest industry that the Bahamas has ever had. In spite of topographical difficulties, in spite of opposition from the lumber interests of the South, this wood is bound to be used inside five years."

1903 – March 16 – *Manitoba Free Press*, p. 7 – Major Bell coming back to Winnipeg – note conflicting dates – did he return in 1902 or 1903?

1903 – April 3 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 3 – Major Bell buys the McMillan House for \$9,700

1903 - April 4 – *Manitoba Free Press*, p. 3 – Major Bell buys the McMillan House for \$9,000

1903 – April 14 – *Nassau-Bahamas etc.* – Comment on Major Bell's lumber business plans

"**ISLAND ECHOES.** According to your Correspondent, the screeching buzz-saw will soon be heard on Abaco. I predicted some time ago, that the timber of this Island would be utilized. What puzzles the natives is, that no son of the soil discovered this "bonanza," until Major Bell arrived and scooped the "pot."

Perhaps there are very few persons in the Bahamas who have any idea of the magnitude of this enterprise. It has been conservatively calculated, that, there are 4000,000 acres of available

timber, averaging 50 trees of sizes to cut, which will yield an average of 100 feet of lumber per tree. This  $400,000 \times 50 \times 100 = 2,000,000,000$  feet, at say 2 cents per foot or \$40,000,000 worth of lumber. Figures like “facts are stubborn things.”

1903 – June 4 - *Winnipeg Daily Tribune*, p. \_ - Major Bell to Indian Head to inspect grain elevator under construction



88 kb

1903 – July 2 – *Regina Leader* – p. 8 – Major Bell in Regina, sees Lieut. Gov. Forget and friends

“Major Bell, of Bell Farm fame, was in Regina on Monday looking up the Lieutenant-Governor, Commissioner Perry and other friends of the old days, including Major Montgomery, who, notwithstanding his serious illness, was allowed to see his old comrade-in-arms.”

[Franks' Note: In 1884, Major Montgomery was the Registrar at Land Titles in Regina.]

1903 – Dec 5 – *Manitoba Free Press*, p. \_\_\_ - F.H. Jones building steel grain elevator for Major Bell at Indian Head

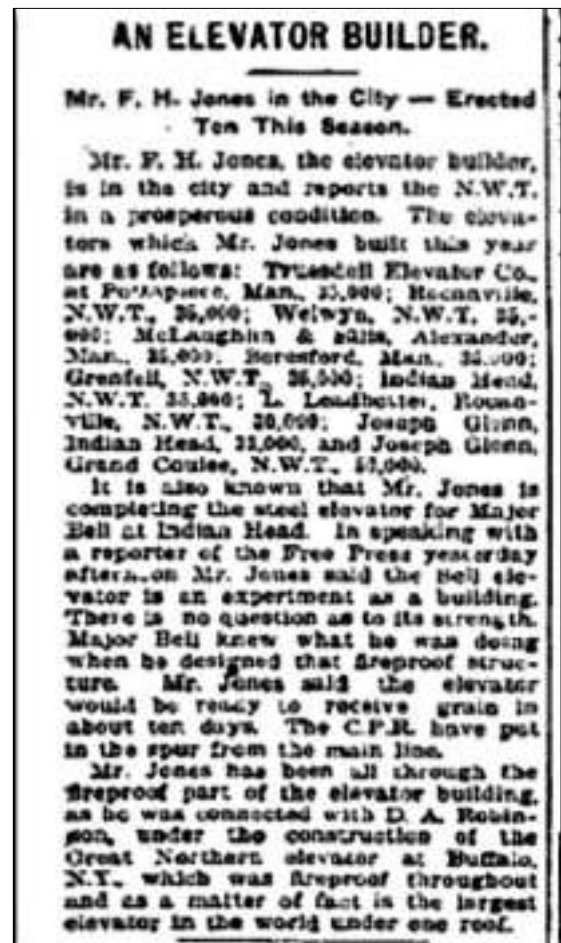
**“AN ELEVATOR BUILDER – Mr. F.H. Jones in the City – Erected Ten This Season.**

Mr. F.H. Jones, the elevator builder, is in the city and reports the N.W.T. in a prosperous condition. The elevators which Mr. Jones has built this year are as follows: Truesdell Elevator Co, at Pettapiece, Man. 35,000; Rocanville, N.W.T., 35,000; Welwyn, N.W.T. 35,000; McLaughlin & [Ellis?] Alexander, Man., 35,000; Beresford, Man., 35,000; Grenfell, N.W.T. 35,000; Indian Head, N.W.T. 33,000; L. Leadbetter, Rocanville, N.W.T. 30,000; Joseph Glenn, Indian Head, 33,000; and Joseph Glenn, Grand Coulee, N.W.T. 33,000. [Elevator capacities unclear]

It is also known that Mr. Jones is completing the steel elevator for Major Bell at Indian Head. In speaking with a reporter of the Free Press yesterday afternoon Mr. Jones said the Bell elevator is an experiment as a building. There is no question as to its strength. Major Bell knew what he was doing when he designed that fireproof structure. Mr. Jones said the elevator would be ready to receive grain in about ten days. The C.P.R. have put in the spur from the main line.

Mr. Jones has been all through the fireproof part of the elevator building, as he was connected with D.A. Robinson, under the construction of the Great Norther elevator at

Buffalo, N.Y., which was fireproof throughout and as a matter of fact is the largest elevator in the world under one roof.”



141 kb

# 1904

1904 – W.R. Bell – Bell Elevator Company, 42 Canada Life Block, 208 Portage Ave.; Home: 147 Carlton, Henderson's Directory for Winnipeg, p. 95, 202, 283, 866.

1904 – March 16 - *Manitoba Free Press* "Twenty Years Ago Today" (i.e. 1884):

"McArthur, Boyle and Campbell, bankers, have purchased the bonds of Major Bell's farm to the amount of \$150,000."

# 1905

1905 – W.R. Bell: mgr., Bell Elevator Company listed in Henderson's Directory for Winnipeg; Business: Rm 42-208 Portage; Home: 147 Carlton - p. 353, 354.

1905 – May 19 - *Winnipeg Tribune*

Report on a court case between Major Bell and a former Director of the Bell Farming Company: Ralph T. Rokeby: **"Bell vs. Rokeby.**

This morning the appeal of R.T. Rokeby against the decision of Mr. Justice Richards, giving the plaintiff judgement and costs, in a suit for commission for the sale of the Rokeby farm, Headingly, was commenced before the full court. The plaintiff in the original action was Major Bell, and the defendant R.T. Rokeby, son of the Rev. Dr. Rokeby, owner of the Headingly farm. Major Bell claims to have sold the Rokeby farm for defendant, and put in a claim for commission. R.T. Rokeby denied liability, as he was acting only as agent for his father. At the time of the original action the counsel for the plaintiff asked leave to add the name of the father as co-defendant. This was granted by the judge. The father was added as co-defendant, but did not put in a defence, as he was outside the jurisdiction of the court. Mr. Justice Richards entered a verdict for the plaintiff. H.M. Howell this morning moved that this verdict be set aside with costs. H.M. Howell, K.C., and T.G. Mathers for the appellants [sic]. T.M. Daly, K.C. and Mr. McClure for defendants."

# 1906

1906 – William R. Bell – retired – Henderson’s Directory for Winnipeg, p. 312; Home: 147 Carlton

1906 – Census – lists Bell Family at 147 Carlton:

William R., Catherine, Nora, Elsie B., John A., William A. [\(see note for 1911 census discrepancies\)](#)

# 1907

1907 – William R. Bell – retired – Henderson’s Directory for Winnipeg, p. 385; Home: 147 Carlton

1907 – June 27 – *Winnipeg Tribune* – notice relating to Mrs. Catherine Bell’s social activities

Mrs. W. R. Bell entertained informally at "an afternoon tea" yesterday in honor of Mrs. MacKelrey, of Regina. Mrs. Weiss and Mrs. Dagg, presided over the pretty tea table decorated with brilliant red carnations. Miss Gaffner and Miss Guilmette looked after the guests. The guests included Mrs. Champion, Mrs. Guilmette, Mrs. Gardner, Mrs. Dagg, Mrs. Concurr, Mrs. Champion, Mrs. Englund, Mrs. T. A. Macdonald, Mrs. Patterson, Mrs. Locke, Mrs. Chambre, Mrs. (Capt.) Kitchen, Mrs. Aird, Mrs. J. Walker, Mrs. Warner, Mrs. W. W. McMillan, Mrs. Chisholm, Miss Tilt, Mrs. Patterson, Mrs. Devine, Mrs. Manning, Mrs. Carmichael, Mrs. Long, Mrs. Monkinan, Mrs. Colquhoun, Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Vivian, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Farrell, Mrs. Bawlf, Dr. Mary Crawford, Miss Crawford, Mrs. E. A. James,

126 kb

Mrs. Bawlf, Mrs. McKay, Mrs. McWilliams and others.

21 kb

# 1908

1908 – William R. Bell – Henderson’s Directory for Winnipeg, p. 400; Home: 147 Carlton

# 1909

Note: there is no 1909 Henderson Directory for Winnipeg available

# 1910

1910 – Bell, W.R. & Co Ltd. (mgr. Financial Agents), Henderson’s Directory for Winnipeg, p. 293 & 459;  
354 Main Street, 21-22 Empress Block, Second floor; H: 147 Carlton

1910 – June 8 – *Edmonton Capital* – Bell invests in Cardiff Mine

## CARDIFF MINE CHANGES HANDS

Purchasers Are Acting for Mr.  
Rod Mackenzie, Son of Wil-  
liam Mackenzie

Mr. Rod Mackenzie, son of William Mackenzie of Mackenzie & Mann, has secured the Cardiff coal company, operating at Morinville. The price paid is \$300,000. The deal was concluded through Mr. Mackenzie's agent, Mr. John Anderson, of the Winnipeg law firm of O'Brady & Anderson, and Major Bell, also of Winnipeg. These two gentlemen have been in the city for the past week engineering the deal for their principal.

The terms of the purchase call for a payment of \$100,000 in cash and the balance in mortgage bonds at 6 per cent. semi annually and O'Brady & Anderson have undertaken to float the bonds in the Old Country. According to the agreement \$10,000 of the purchase price has been deposited with local solicitors. The capital of the new concern is to be \$750,000.

144 kb

The property of the Cardiff coal company comprises 500 acres and the mines have a capacity of 1,000 tons daily, although the output in the busiest season is only 600 tons. The mines have the distinction of being the only ones which are enabled to load nine cars at one time. There are three seams on the property and the one which is being worked at present is from 14 to 22 feet in width, while the others are somewhat smaller, ranging at about eight and seven feet.

There are three shafts, only one of which has been worked to capacity.

The shareholders of the late company were: J. H. Pickard, J. H. Morris, E. A. James, Charles Carey, Geo. Swaisland, S. Larue, L. Savoir, Geo. Ray, R. Secord, P. E. Lessard, B. F. Morris, besides several Detroit capitalists.

T. H. Eaton will likely be manager of the new company.

114 kb

1910 – June 11 – *The District Ledger*, Fernie, British Columbia

Reference to Major Bell's involvement with coal mining at the Cardiff / Morinville area, about 15-20 miles north of Edmonton, Alberta.

THE DISTRICT LEDGER, FE

# BIG MINING DEAL ON

## Cardiff Mines About to Pass Into Hands of Syndicate

(Edmonton Bulletin)

One of the biggest coal mine deals every put through in this end of the province, a deal which involves the transfer to a syndicate of Winnipeg

282 kb

capitalists of the big Cardiff mines at Morinville, at a figure said to be something over \$300,000, is pending in the city today, and should be completed by this evening if plans of the representatives of the syndicate who reached the city this morning do not miscarry.

Just who the Winnipeg capitalists are that will take over the mines is not known but it is understood that the syndicate includes some of the wealthiest men of the prairie city.

Two of the syndicate, J. A. Anderson and G. H. Eaton of Winnipeg, with their representative, Major W. Bell, of Winnipeg, the guests at the King Edward today, having come in over the C. N. R. from the east this morning. He will visit the mines this afternoon. Although they are saying little about their business in the city it is understood that they are here to

260 kb

close the deal, and that Major Bell, who is conducting the sale, is prepared to make the first payment on the property before he leaves the city.

The Cardiff mines, which are situated on a spur of the Canadian Northern Railway, three miles outside of Morinville, are the biggest mines of the Edmonton district, and from three to six thousand tons of coal per day can be turned out of these mines. The mines were opened three or four years ago, and until now have been owned by a syndicate of Edmonton men, including J. H. Morris and other prominent business men.

The mines supply the bulk of the coal used by the C. N. R. for the lines north and west of Edmonton, and for a portion of the run on the main line. A great deal of the output of the mine is also shipped to towns down the main line of the C. N. R. It is understood that the new syndicate will make extensive additions to the plant at the mines.

306 kb

1910 – Oct 4 – *Edmonton Capital*, p. 2 – Bell in Edmonton to complete Cardiff Mine deal

**“Here to Complete the Cardiff Deal** – For the purpose of continuing negotiations for the taking over of the Cardiff Coal Company’s mines at Morinville, by the Cardiff Collieries Ltd. of Winnipeg, the Hon T. Mayne Daly and Major W.R. Bell of the latter company are in the city.

When seen by The Capital this morning Major Bell would not make any statement for publication, explaining that when he was here last statements were made in a local contemporary which were credited to him and nearly cost him thousands of dollars. When the deal was completed, however, he would give full particulars.



# 1911

1911 – Jan 11 - *Winnipeg Tribune* p. \_ - Major and Catherine Bell go to England or southern USA, etc (?)

"Major and Mrs. Bell leave shortly for an extended trip abroad"

1911 – Bell, W.R. & Co Ltd. (mgr. Financial Agents) – Henderson's Directory for Winnipeg, p. 207, 290, 445, 1606;

354 Main Street, 22-23 Empress Block, Second floor ; Home: 147 Carlton

1911 – W.R. Bell & Co. Ltd, financial brokers – Winnipeg Telephone Book, 1911

"W.R. Bell & Co. Ltd, financial brokers, 354 Main Street - Phone number "Main 9160"

1911 - Census - lists Bell family at 147 Carlton:

William R., Catherine, Nora, Elsie, John, William (check names and birthdates of children from 1906 and 1911 Census records – seem to conflict)

1911 – Jan. 24 – *Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 2 – Death of A.J. Osment – and role in building the Bell Farm

**"INDIAN HEAD PIONEER DEAD. A.J. Osment Who Came West for Major Bell Passes Away.**

Indian Head, Sask. Jan. 22 – A.J. Osment, a resident of Indian Head since 1882, died at his residence here last night. Mr. Osment was brought West under contract by Major Bell in 1882 from Brockville, Ont., to build the cottages on the extensive Bell farm. Completing the contract, he opened a general store. He built many of the chief buildings and business blocks in Indian Head, including the Imperial Hotel and Opera House block. Mr. Osment was for many years a member of the rural council and was chairman of the municipality. He leaves a wife and four children."

1911 – March – *Empress of Britain* – Passenger List

Bell family arrive at Saint John, N.B. : W.R., Catherine and Nora

1911- late November – early December – Major and Catherine Bell sail from Montreal to Liverpool, England on the Allan Line steam ship: the *R.M.S. Corsican*, as noted below, from C. John Sparling:

Using my own judgment, I finally decided to travel east. Therefore I again booked passage from Montreal to Liverpool on the R. M. S. Corsican—Allan Line.

Our saloon list of passengers was small but select. So a pleasant voyage was experienced across the Atlantic.

Captain Cook proved himself a good musician, as well as an able seaman. Daily he gave us a few songs, being his own piano accompanist, in the music saloon. Thus the first cabin passengers were generous in their praise of the courteous commander. We all liked him.

On this voyage I had the pleasure of meeting a distinguished empire builder from the the Canadian Northwest, in the person of Major W. R. Bell. Of him and the “Bell Farm” I had heard more than twenty years before. Speaking with the major about his early farming experiences in the west he told me that as early as 1882, his farm near Indian Head consisted of 62,200 acres. But the enterprising major was too previous in that frost-fought country, and the “Bell Farm” “busted” up. Major Bell is now a Winnipegger, and is still doing a land business. He is also both a pleasant and interesting gentleman, and I enjoyed his friendship much.

Landing at Liverpool early in December, I was given an opportunity of making a few drop-in-and-drop-out calls upon friends in England and Ireland before sailing for Australia, December 14th.

Source: The Irish- Canuck-Yankee "distinguished empire builder from the Canadian Northwest", p. 368, by C. John Sparling. <https://archive.org/stream/irishcanuckyanke00spar#page/368/mode/2up>

# 1912

1912 – Bell, W.R. & Co Ltd. (mgr. Financial Agents) – Henderson’s Directory for Winnipeg, p. 340, 426, 612

354 Main Street, 22-23 Empress Block, Second floor ; Home: 147 Carlton

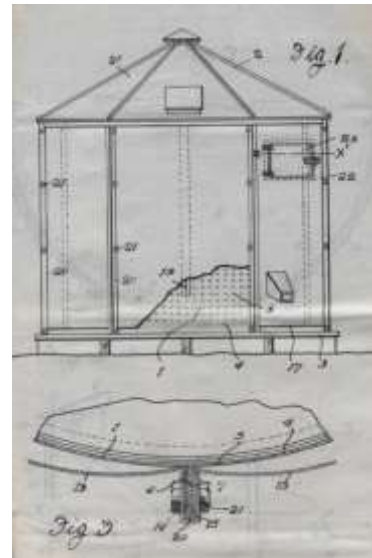
1912 – June 18 – Major Bell obtains Canadian patent for a metal grain bin



395 kb



146 kb



240 kb

1912 – June 21 – Winnipeg Tribune, p. 9 - Bell family off to the Beach

“Major W.R. Bell and family left last evening to take up residence at Winnipeg Beach for the summer months.”

1912 – September 5 - *Winnipeg Tribune*

Manitoba Club Rifle Association presented Major Bell with a silver Loving Cup for long service recognition



238 kb

# 1913

1913 – Bell, W.R. “fin agt” (financial agent), Henderson’s Directory for Winnipeg, p. 445, 726;

home: 147 Carlton.

Winnipeg Free Press	Feb. 18, 1913	<p>“Major W.R. Bell Called by Death”</p> <p>Long article – photocopied but not yet scanned – poor copy recopy or scan</p>
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1913 - Feb. 17 - *The Winnipeg Tribune* - Death of Major Bell

The newspaper records that Major Bell “had been giving his attention to the Cardiff coal mines at Edmonton” at the time of his death.



34 kb

Cardiff Coal Mine, c. 1910 – Alberta Archives: A15478.

1913 – Feb. 17 – *Winnipeg Tribune* - Major Bell dies in Winnipeg

**MAJOR W. R. BELL,  
FENIAN VETERAN,  
IS DEAD IN CITY**

**One of Best-Known Residents of  
Western Canada Passes Away  
Unexpectedly After Illness of  
Six Months**

Major William Robert Bell died this morning at 4.30 at his home at 147 Carson street after an illness extending over some six months. Although he had been under medical care for that period, death came unexpectedly. Indeed, it was entirely unanticipated by some of his closest friends, and it was with the greatest surprise they heard the sad news. It was a shock to the business community for no one was better known in the city than the gentleman whose life and career had been so typical of the progressive spirit that has developed and is developing Western Canada.

No arrangements have been made for the funeral pending word being received from the deceased's sister, Miss Bell, who resides at Brockville, Ont., but is at present visiting at Vancouver.

**Military Service**

Major Bell, who was born at Brockville some seventy years ago, spent the earlier years of his life in the Western United States, but returned to Canada at the outbreak of the first Fenian trouble to serve in the defence of his country. He saw service with the 41st Regiment, retiring with the rank of major in 1878. He obtained medals for the Fenian raids in 1848 and 1870, as well as the general service medal with two clasps. He also was a member of the first Canadian team that took part in the Wimbledon rifle competition.

But he was even better known for his experimental farming operations at Indian Head, Sask., where he settled on leaving the army. The Bell farm of 1899 had a world-wide reputation and although he was not as successful as the courage behind it and the scientific character of the experiment merited it was simply as a gentleman speaking of it today put it, because he was ahead of the time. It is any time placed Major Bell in the forefront rank of the world's enterprising agriculturists and his experimental work was advertised broadcast by the C.P.R.

**Business Career**

Major Bell also originated the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming society and other affiliated enterprises in 1882 and the following year he unsuccessfully contested Qu'Appelle for the North-

(Continued on Page Eleven)

**PIONEER HAS  
PASSED AWAY**



Major William R. Bell who died this morning

**EARL GEAY PAYS  
WARM TRIBUTE  
TO NEW ZEALAND**

**Makes Reference to Presentation  
of Dreadnaught at Canadian  
Club Luncheon in London**

London, Feb. 17. (C.A.P.)—Earl Grey spoke eloquently today at the Canadian Club luncheon given in honor of Hon. H. J. Allen, New Zealand minister of finance and defense, saying in part: "The whole empire is thrilled that New Zealand, with a population less than half that of the province of Quebec, offers a Dreadnaught to the empire. This reveals to the whole world the power of the overseas dominions in assisting the United Kingdom in safeguarding the empire. Men of British descent all over the world welcome New Zealand as partner in the great work of maintaining the empire."

157 kb

**Major W. R. Bell**

(Continued from Page One)

west council in the Conservative interest. He was president of the board of trade at Indian Head in 1895.

Subsequently he came to reside in Winnipeg which he had been more or less closely associated since he had made the west a home. His business was that of a financial agent and promoter and lately he had been giving his attention to the Cardiff coal mines at Edmonton, which promise to develop into a most valuable property.

In addition to the sister mentioned, Major Bell is survived by his widow and four small children. His first wife was a daughter of James C. Elwood, of Brockville. On March 21, 1887 he married Miss Ormiston, of London, England.

**Well Known, Well Liked**

One of the best known men in Western Canada, Major Bell's death will leave a blank in the circle of the pioneers of the country that will be hard to fill. He filled to the life the dual role of soldier and alert and progressive business man, material from which has sprung the vitalizing energy of the west.

Prominent in business, social and military life, during his residence in Winnipeg, he did not take an active part in either politics or municipal affairs.

"But," to quote the tribute of H. T. Charnison, one of his many personal friends, "he was intensely liked. A man of indomitable courage, pluck and energy, he was able to pull himself through where others would have fallen by the wayside."

Such, in a sentence, indicates the calibre and gives a bird's-eye view of the character of the man Winnipeg mourns.

**Old-timer's Tribute**

"Probably no private citizen in the history of the West did more to draw attention to the agricultural possibilities of the country than the late Major Bell," said an old-timer this morning.

"I remember visiting the famous Bell farm at Indian Head about twenty-five years ago. The West was then in its infant infancy. The newspapers of Canada and the Old Land were continually commenting on the gigantic operations of the Bell farm. It was a test of wholesale farming, and the trial, in a measure, demonstrated that the huge farm cannot be as profitably operated as the small one."

**His Largeness of Vision**

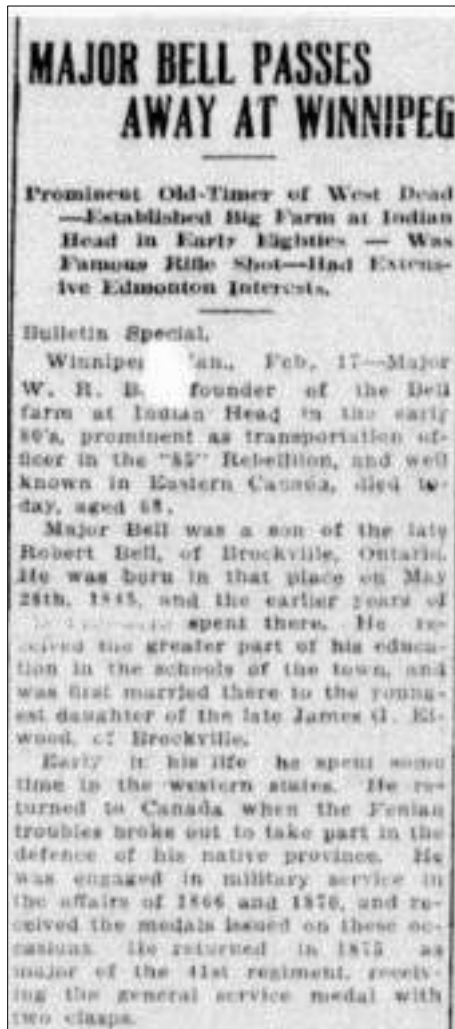
"However, the Bell farm was an indication of the major's largeness of vision. He took a great grip of the project, and against all the drawbacks of the early days did as well as any man could under the circumstances. He was a man of splendid mentality, and had hosts of friends all the way from the Atlantic to the Pacific. It was a rare pleasure to engage him in conversation on the early days."

83 kb

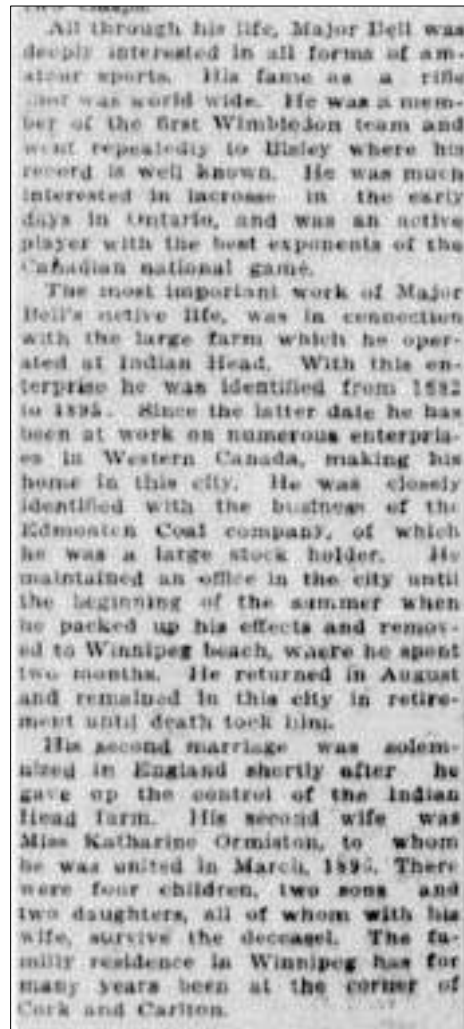
1913 – Feb. 18 - *Manitoba Free Press*, p. 5 – Death of Major Bell – [check for details](#)

1913 – Feb. 18 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 12 – Death of Major Bell – [check for details](#)

1913 – Feb. 18 – *Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 10 – Death of Major Bell



75 kb



73 kb

1913 – Feb. 19 – Following a funeral at Knox Presbyterian Church, Winnipeg, Major Bell is buried in Winnipeg's Elmwood Cemetery.

**“SIMPLE FUNERAL OF MAJOR W.R. BELL – Service Conducted at Family Residence by Rev. Dr. Du Val – Interment in Elmwood Cemetery.**

Beautiful in its simplicity was funeral service conducted over the remains of Major W.R. Bell at his former residence, 147 Carlton street, yesterday afternoon. The service, without music and without eulogy, consisted of a reading from the scriptures by Rev. Dr. Du Val, of Knox Presbyterian church, which was followed by an impressive prayer.

After the services, friends of the deceased present filed slowly past the open coffin, after which the funeral cortege proceeded to Elmwood Cemetery, where interment was made. The pallbearers were H.T. Champion, E.H. Macklin, N.C. Leslie, Col. Irvine, A. McTavish Campbell and Isaac Campbell, K.C. In accordance with the expressed wish of the late Major Bell, no flowers were sent.”

1913 – Feb. 19 (?) - No source – Burial of Major Bell

**“Remains of the Late Major Bell Laid to Rest By Old Friends -**

The funeral of the late Major Bell, who died on Monday morning, was held yesterday afternoon from the family residence, 147 Carlton street. Interment took place in Elmwood cemetery. The services at the house and later at the graveside, were conducted by Rev. Dr. Duval, and were largely attended by a host of friends and acquaintances who paid their last respects to the pioneer sportsman and well-known citizen in a manner showing the deep loss which they felt they had sustained. The pallbearers, all old and close friends of the deceased, were: Colonel Irwin, Norman Leslie, D.H. Macklin, A.M. Campbell, Isaac Campbell, K.C., and H.T. Champion.”

1913 – Feb. 20 – *Manitoba Free Press*, p. 3 – Funeral for Major Bell – [check for details](#)



119 kb

Libby (Bell) MacAulay by her grandparents' graves in Elmwood Cemetery, Winnipeg, Aug. 2013.



Major William Robert Bell (1847-1913) [84 kb](#)

Catherine [Ormiston] Bell (1871-1954) [110 kb](#)

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# The End



## Revisions from Aug. 12, 2020 to May 21, 2021

### Highlighted items of special interest

- 1882 – June 17 – According to Dominion Lands Agent J. McD. Gordon, breaking on the Bell Farm started on June 17, 1882.  
+++++
- 1883 – March 1 – *Regina Leader*, p. 1 – first issue of the *Regina Leader* included Bell Farm mention
- 1883 – April 19 – *Regina Leader*, p. 4 – Bell Farm court case
- 1883 – May 8 – Senate Debates: *Great Canadian North-West*, p. 6 – Hon. J.B. Plumb — Seeding starts April 10
- 1883 – July 5 – *Regina Leader*, p. 3 – Major Bell appointed Justice of the Peace
- 1883 – July 5 – *Regina Leader*, p. 4 – “Indian Head” – Dominion Day and brick yard operation details
- 1883 – July 12 – *Regina Leader*, p. 4 – Spaniels at the Bell Farm
- 1883 – July 19 – *Regina Leader*, p. 4 – Bell Farm visitors: “A Winnipeg Party”
- 1883 – July 26 – *Regina Leader*, p. 2 – a long anecdote about Dewdney, Bell and Alcohol
- 1883 – July 26 – *Regina Leader*, p. 4 – Group of British travellers visit the Bell Farm
- 1883 – Aug. 16 – *Regina Leader*, p. 2 – Defeat of Major Bell in Territorial elections
- 1883 – Aug. 30 – *Regina Leader*, p. 4 – update on 66 CPR officials & dignitaries visit to the Bell Farm on Aug. 29
- 1883 – Sept. 6 – *Regina Leader*, p. 1 – Grand CPR Tour returns East from Rockies, visits Bell Farm
- 1883 – Sept. 6 – *Regina Leader*, p. 2: - a brief comment on Bell Farm crops
- 1883 – harvest time – as reported by Edmond (Ted) H. Eberts, who worked on the Bell Farm during the summers of 1883, 1884 and 1885
- 1883 – Sept. \_\_\_\_ - *Sessional Papers 1884* – No. 14, Vol 8, p. 14-246 – Welsh delegates Williams and Owen report - after Sept. 13
- 1883 – Sept. \_\_\_\_ - *Sessional Papers 1884* – No. 14, Vol. 8, p. 14 -253 – German Delegate Dr. Spielberg report – suggestion for Tree Nursery
- 1883 – Nov. 22 – *Regina Leader*, p. 1 – Bell believes some land on Indian Reserves should be rented to farmers
- 1883 – Nov. 22 – *Montreal Gazette* – Major Bell’s Indian Farm proposal refuted
- 1883 – Dec. 31 – *Sessional Papers 1884*, Vol 8 , p. 14-85 – Bell Farm crop report  
+++++
- 1884 – no specific date – Dept. of Agriculture, in 1886 Report- , p. 101 *A Guide Book Containing Information for Intending Settlers* – **NOTE** - location of Bell Farm cottage in groups of four
- 1884 – Jan. 3 – *Regina Leader*, p. 2 – Report on successful 1883 season at the Bell Farm
- 1884 – Jan. 17 – *Regina Leader*- p. 2 – Report on Annual Bell Farm Financial Report for 1883
- 1884 – Feb. 21 – *Regina Leader* – p. 4 – Bell Farm Reaches Agreement with the Squatters
- 1884 – March 22 -*Manitoba Daily Press* - advertisement in Winnipeg for Bell Farm workers
- 1884 – May 29 – *Regina Leader* – p. 4 – Bell Farm buys flax seed from Mr. Body, Winnipeg miller.
- 1884 – June 5 – *Regina Leader*, p. 4 – Bell and Sykes Farm crops
- 1884 – June 12 – *Regina Leader* – p. 1 – Tree planting details on the Bell Farm
- 1884 – June 24 – *Regina Leader* – p. 2 – Pork at the Bell Farm
- 1884 – July 10 – Robert Miller Christy first visits the Bell Farm, and began his report, as published in 1885

- 1884 – Aug. 14 – Regina Leader – p. 4 - Notice to Squatters – to meet at Bell Farm
- 1884 – August 20 – Letter from former Prime Minister Sir Alexander Mackenzie to his daughter Mary, on visit to Bell Farm with his wife Jane
- 1884 - Aug. 21 – *Regina Leader* p. 1 – Squatter Arbitrators Taylor and Woods visit Bell Farm and Regina area
- 1884 – Aug. 21 – *Regina Leader* – p. 4 – Settlement between Bell Farm and Squatters
- 1884 – Sept. 4 – *Brandon Mail*, p. 8 – Mrs. Groom’s group of Deaf Mutes work at Bell Farm
- 1884 – Sept. 23 – Peter O’Leary’s visit to the Bell Farm – and his Dec. 31 brief comment in his report to the Minister of Agriculture
- 1884 – Sept. 25 – *Regina Leader* – p. 4 – Letter describes crops on the Bell Farm
- 1884 – Oct. 16 – *Regina Leader* – p. 1 – Efforts being made to satisfy the Squatters
- +++++
- 1885 – Jan. \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_? \_\_\_\_ - Annual meeting of Qu’Appelle Valley Farming Company delayed until March.
- 1885 – Feb 4. – *London Times* – p. 14 – Advertisement for Bell Farm agricultural college
- 1885 – March 26 – *Brandon Mail*, p. 8 – carpenters off to Indian Head to help build Bell’s Grist / Flour Mill
- 1885 – April 2 - *Qu’Appelle Vidette* - Bell Farm teams for Rebellion; Bell back from England
- 1885 – April 14 – *Regina Leader*, p. 4 – Bell to Swift Current by train for military transport service
- 1885 – Oct. 29 – *Regina Leader* – p. 3 – Bell Mill is frame, 4 stories high, with brick engine house
- +++++
- 1886 – Aug. 3 – Regina Leader , p. 1 – Excellent Crop Outlook for Bell Farm
- 1886 – Oct. 5 – *Regina Leader*, p. 3 - Law suit over non-payment of wages and improper dismissal: Good vs Bell – Good won
- 1886 – Oct. 5 – *Regina Leader* p. 4 – Law Suit Insinger vs Bell Farm [Money Value: £100 = \$500]
- +++++
- 1887 – April 14 - *Qu’Appelle Vidette* – Tanner house construction and Bell Farm director Allan on site
- 1887 – April 14 – *Qu’Appelle Vidette* – Tanner’s New Scheme for settlement
- 1887 – June 7 – *Regina Leader* – p. 1 – Bell returns from east; 4,500 acres in wheat and oats sown
- 1887 – July 5 – *Regina Leader* – Presbyterian delegates visit the Bell Farm and Assiniboine reserve
- 1887 – Aug. 24 – *Manitoba Free Press* – Baird and Carruthers visit Winnipeg and points west, including the Bell Farm
- 1887 – Aug. 30 - *Manitoba Free Press* – Baird and Carruthers at Bell Farm on Aug. 27
- +++++
- 1888 – July 19 – *Brandon Mail*, p. 2 – Advertisement by W. Johnston, Brandon - for Bell Farm machinery sale
- 1888 – Aug. 14 – *Regina Leader* , p. 2 – Crop report on the Bell Farm and region – excellent.
- 1888 – Aug. 14 – *Regina Leader*, p. 4 – Bell Farm crop report – flourishing.
- 1888 – Oct. 23 – *Regina Leader* – Bell Farm crop report; new elevator being built .
- 1888 – Nov. \_\_\_\_ - *Regina Leader*, \_\_\_\_ - Major Bell participated in first Assiniboia (Regina) Rifle Association Match – as reported in Nov. 30, 1933 edition, p. 4
- 1888 – Dec 4 – *Regina Leader* - Major and Mrs. Bell travel to Winnipeg and England.
- +++++
- 1889 – March \_\_\_\_ - *Regina Leader*, P. \_\_\_\_ - Major Bell visits Regina (reported March 31, 1939)
- 1889 – June 11 – *Regina Leader*, p. 4 – Report of major farming initiatives, including the Bell Farm
- 1889 – July 23 – *Regina Leader*, p. 8 – Major Bell places second at Assiniboia Rifle Assoc. Shoot

- 1889 – Oct. 7 – *Sessional Paper* No. 12 (pub. 1890), Vol. 10, p. 12-143 – McGibbon’s report on Indian labour at Bell and Kaye’s Farms  
+++++
- 1890 - March 11 – *Regina Leader*, p. 1 –Brassey operations on former Bell Farm lands
- 1890 - March 11 – *Regina Leader*, p. 8 – Bell plans to sell more farm land
- 1890 – June 3 – *Regina Leader*, p. 1 - Bell President of Liberal-Conservative Association
- 1890 – Sept. 1 – *Sessional Papers* – 1891 – Vol. 15, No. 18, p. 18-42 – Indian Agent J.B. Lash’s report on Indian workers on the Bell and Kaye Farms in 1889
- 1890 - Sept. 30 – *Regina Leader*, p. 1– Assiniboia Provincial Rifle Association – Major Bell wins various matches
- 1890 – Oct. 3 – *Sessional Paper* – 1891, Vol. 4, No 6, p. 6-104 Visit of Tenant-Farmer Delegates to Canada from England – report from G.H. Campbell
- 1890 – Dec. 25 – Report of G.H. Campbell, on the Delegates Tour to Canada, including the Bell Farm  
+++++
- 1891 – Aug. 22 – *Sessional Paper* 1892– No. 7f, Vol. 6, p. 7f-53 – Annual Inspection of Experimental Farms by Wm Saunders, Director, Dominion Experimental Farms
- 1891 – Sept. 17 – *Qu’Appelle Vidette* - Tanner and Sheppard at Indian Head and Qu’Appelle Valley Hotel
- 1891 – Sept. 17 – *Qu’Appelle Vidette* – Bell Farm Flour Mill idle since 1886
- 1891 – Sept. 24 – *Qu’Appelle Vidette* – Harvest on Brassey and Bell Farms; and Surveying at Brassey lands
- 1891 – Oct. 1 – *Qu’Appelle Vidette* – Bell to sell Flour Mill for \$2,500
- 1891 – Nov. 3 – *Regina Leader*, p. 1 – Bell Farm harvest report  
+++++
- 1892 – March 1 – *Annual Report for the Toronto Home for the Incurables*, p. 37-38 – Donation by Mrs. Bell
- 1892 – April 4 – *Regina Leader*, p. 4 – Bell to start seeding
- 1892 – April 25 – *Regina Leader*, p. 1 – Major Bell on Rifle Association Council
- 1892 – April 28 – *Brandon Mail*, p. 2 – Tanner and Bell – possible sale of farm to Brassey
- 1892 – Aug. 23 – *Sessional Papers 1893* : Vol. 19, No. 14, p. 14-148 - Indian Agent (J.B. Lash) Report, Muscowpetung Agency – Standing Buffalo workers paid \$1,600
- 1892 – Nov 3 - *Qu’Appelle Vidette* - Chesterton’s painting of Brassey townsite, for Tanner  
+++++
- 1893 – Aug. 28 – *Montreal Gazette* – 14 British-Irish Farmer Delegates arrive in Canada
- 1893 – Aug. 31 - *Qu’Appelle Progress*, p. 4 - Bell elected President of the new Indian Head Board of Trade
- 1883 – Aug 23 – *Regina Leader*, p. 4 – Report on brickmaking on Bell Farm by Maass & Mangelsdorf
- 1893 – Sept 14 - *Qu’Appelle Vidette* - Bell and friends shooting ducks at Lakesend
- 1893 – Sept 19 – *The Agricultural Resources of Canada*: Mr. T. Pitt’s Report, p. 15 - visit to Bell Farm / Indian workers
- 1893 – Sept 20 - *The Agricultural Resources of Canada*: The Report of J.T. Franklin, p. 7 – good crops, Indians workings, vacant cottages, and weeds
- 1893 – Oct. 4 – *Qu’Appelle Progress*, p. 4 – Court Case: Thompson for stealing Bell’s decoy ducks  
+++++
- 1894 – April 26 – *Qu’Appelle Progress* , p. 4 – Major Bell – “A man without fear of risk”
- 1894 – June 7 - *Qu’Appelle Vidette* – Major Bell in British Columbia during flooding  
+++++
- 1895 – Oct. 3 – *Regina Leader* – p. 8 – Course Case reserved in Russell vs Bell over wages

- 1895 – Dec 19 – *Qu’Appelle Progress* – p, 3 – “Major Bell, city” at Commercial Hotel, in Indian Head – entry revised – Had Major Bell moved out of the Bell Farmhouse?  
+++++
- 1899 – Aug. 10 – *Regina Leader*, p. 1 – Court Case: Sale of Bell farm lands: Benbow vs Scottish Syndicate – Benbow lost.  
+++++
- 1900 – Jan. 9 – *Ottawa Citizen* – Major Bell in Ottawa
- 1900 – Feb. 8 – *Regina Leader*, p. 1 – Major Bell back in Indian Head
- 1900 – Feb. 8 – *Regina Leader*, p. 8 – Major Bell back in Canada and in Regina
- 1900 – May 3 - *Calgary Herald* - Bell involved with North West Irrigation Company, Alberta
- 1900 – Aug. 22 – *Nassau- Bahamas etc.* – Major Bell and Mr. Kaufhold to Abaco to inspect forest
- 1900 – Aug. 29 – *Nassau- Bahamas etc.* – Major Bell & party to inspect forests on Andros Island
- 1900 – Oct. 31 – *Nassau- Bahamas etc.* – Major Bell on board the SANTIAGO
- 1900 – Nov. 10 – *Nassau-Bahamas etc.* – Major Bell, from Marsh Harbour, on ALBERTINE ADOUE
- 1900 – Nov. 14 – *Nassau-Bahamas etc.* – Major Bell and R. Bowie on SARATOGA for New York-Canada
- 1900 – Nov. 14 – *Nassau-Bahamas etc.* – Major Bell, Bowling and Bowie on SANTIAGO for New York  
+++++
- 1901 – Feb. 6 – *Nassau-Bahamas etc.* – Major Bell and Bell Farm investor Jules Burwell visit Abaco
- 1901 – Aug. 7 – *Nassau-Bahamas etc.* – Major Bell arrives from New York on SANTIAGO for visit to Abaco
- 1901 – Aug. 10 – *Nassau-Bahamas etc.* – Major Bell and Mr. Barry travel to Abaco
- 1901 – Aug. 11 – *Regina Leader*, p. 8 – John Matere, Bell Farm employee arrested
- 1901 – Aug. 21 – *Nassau-Bahamas etc.* – Major Bell sails on SANTIAGO to New York
- 1901 – Sept. 11 – *Nassau-Bahamas etc.* – Rusticus on Major Bell’s lumber business plans  
+++++
- 1902 – Feb. 20 – *Regina Leader* – p. 8 Major Bell returns to Winnipeg
- 1902 – June 5 – *Regina Leader*, p. 8 – Major Bell predicts large grain crops for North-West Territories  
+++++
- 1903 – *Canadian Forestry Assoc. Annual Report*, p. 71 – Major Bell – strong wind anecdote
- 1903 – Jan. 14 – *Nassau-Bahamas etc.* – Update on Major Bell’s lumber business plans
- 1903 – April 14 – *Nassau-Bahamas etc.* – Comment on Major Bell’s lumber business plans
- 1903 – July 2 – *Regina Leader* – p. 8 – Major Bell in Regina, sees Lieut. Gov. & friends  
+++++
- 1911 – March \_\_\_ – *Empress of Britain* – Bell family arrives at Saint John, N.B. from England  
+++++

+++++ 1353 entries as of May 21, 2021 +++++