



MANITOBA COLLEGE, WINNIPEG, MANITOBA. See Page 21.

John Macoun, the government botanist, who has crossed the continent twice expressly to make inquiries into the floral and geological formation of the Northwest, especially in the Peace River district, which is to the north and northwest of the Saskatchewan, beyond the Athabasca river and east of the Rocky Mountains, was examined at great length by the Parliamentary committee on immigration. During the examination he gave such proofs of his knowledge that none doubted the truth of his assertions. This valley is between latitude 55 and 59 and longitude 115 and 122 west from Greenwich. The Professor found that the entire district along the Peace river for a distance of

760 MILES

in a belt 150 on each side, was as suitable for the cultivation of grain as that of the province of Ontario (or Upper Canada.) He has brought samples of wheat weighing 68 pounds to the bushel and of barley weighing 56 pounds to the bushel. The climate was even more suitable than in Ontario for there were no wet autumns or frost to kill the young grain. The plants that he found in that region were the same as

THOSE ON LAKE ERIE,

and further discoveries satisfied him that the two areas were similar in every respect. The ice in the river broke up in April. Stock raising was not difficult because the grass remained fresh and green up to the very opening of winter. He had seen thousands of acres of it three and four feet long on levels 300 feet above the Peace River. He had tested the temperature, and showed by figures that the average summer heat, throughout that entire district and way to the north of the Peace river valley, was similar to that of Toronto and Montreal and much higher than that of Halifax. He was positive that the climate was uncommonly suitable for agriculture. Besides the peculiar excellence of the country for cereals he had found thousands of acres of crystallized salt, so pure that it was used in its natural state by the Hudson Bay Co.

COAL

abounded in the richest veins and was so inter-stratified with hematite or iron ore yielding 50 per cent that no

locality could be better for manufacturing. Thousands of acres of

COAL OIL FIELDS

were found, the tar lying on the ground being ankle deep; miles and miles of the purest gypsum beds cropped out of the river beds; coal beds abound along the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains and extend in large seams throughout the country. In short, Prof. Macoun believed the northwest to be the richest part of Canada, prophesied that it would yet become the homes of millions of people, prosperous and happy. It might be well to state, that this committee was not made up entirely of believers of the human sustaining resources of that section or the northwest generally, by any means, but the Professor submitted such a very full collection of the

FAUNA, FLORA, MINERALS, SOILS,

etc., etc., of that section, with such full data, that belief took the place of doubt. I am informed that this, with other similar collections, can be found in the proper department at Ottawa. In speaking of salt I would say that previous to the connection of Manitoba by steam with the States and Canada, all the salt they used was made near Lake Manitoba, but their appliances being rude, and distance considerable, its manufacture is not at present continued, though salt springs of remunerative strength still exist there, and soon its manufacture may be recommenced with the cheaper facilities of modern and complete conveniences.

WHY HAVEN'T WE KNOWN AND HOW DO WE KNOW?

Perhaps some readers may wonder why it is that the great and magnificent country embraced in Manitoba and the Canadian Northwest has only just been discovered, and how it is known that the statements herein made are correct.

Want of space alone forbids this being answered fully. Briefly it is this: From 1670 to 1870 this whole section was held in complete vassalage by the Hudson Bay Co., and especially so since its absorption in 1821 of the Northwest Co., its previous competitor. No white man could be in all this great territory on days without their knowing it. The real missionary of

civilization, the free-trader, was not allowed in their domain. Their policy was to keep it a "terra incognita." That is why we did not know about it.

Through the purchase of their charter by the Dominion Government, under the Premiership of Sir John A. Macdonald, and the immense surveys begun by his government, mainly for the Canadian Pacific Railway, supplemented by further scientific and private explorations (the country being thrown open to free trade and travel) the real truth has begun to be known about it.

Manitoba has a very fine

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

I have before me the prize list for the Fifth Annual Exhibition, which was held last October. The premiums amounted to about \$3,000, and competition being opened to the entire Canadian Northwest, the display was very full and gratifying to all interested, and was a pleasant surprise in the quality, as well as quantity of articles exhibited.

While Manitoba has hitherto been considered and treated as a Northwestern or prairie region, I would say she also lays claim and presents proof as being also

A MARITIME PROVINCE,

by means of the navigation offered through Hudson Bay. The following description of this great northern basin, is from an address of Sanford Fleming Esq., Chief Engineer of the Canadian Pacific railway:

"Any one by examining a geographical map of North America, will notice that a great continental plain stretches north and south between the Gulf of Mexico and the Arctic Ocean. It is bounded on the western side throughout by the Rocky Mountain Range and on the eastern side in part, by the Appalachian Range. This great plain occupies the whole of North America, between the eastern and western mountain ranges. Its river systems are divided into three distinct drainage basins, one south into the Gulf of Mexico, another north into Arctic Waters and the third, east into the Atlantic through the St. Lawrence River. Of these three basins the St. Lawrence is far the smallest in area, while the northern is far the largest as the other two put together. The divide between the northern and southern basins, approximates near the international boundary between Canada and the United States."

The northwestern part of the State of Minnesota is in this valley. This part of that State has by far its finest wheat lands. Northwestern Dakota is also in this same basin, its wheat value and rapid settlement equal if not exceeds that of Minnesota. Consequently, it is a part of and sympathetic with the northern basin. The outlet of a large portion of the wheat belt of this basin—the largest in the world—is through

NELSON RIVER TO HUDSON BAY,

from the mouth of which river it is nearer by a considerable distance to Liverpool than the Port of New York to Liverpool. The direct western portion of the system of navigation of the southern part of this basin and south and southwest portion of the same system in the Red and Assiniboine Valleys, meet at a common point at the northern end of Lake Winnipeg, a distance of some 370 miles from Hudson Bay, via the River Nelson, at a point 710 feet above the sea level. The distance, 370 miles of river, is about the same as from Buffalo to Troy, New York, (360 miles) the two termini of the Erie Canal, while the elevation to overcome is approximately the same viz: 710 feet to 854 feet

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