

6. The soil and climate are particularly well adapted to the growing of fall and spring wheat, barley, oats, potatoes, turnips, and all kinds of vegetables and small fruits. Corn and standard apples don't seem to do so well, unless it be the very hardiest varieties.

7. Grasses grow in great luxuriance.

8. A very healthy climate.

9. Good roads for a new country.

10. Plenty of winter work in the lumber camps; also hauling and chopping cordwood.

### RAT PORTAGE.

Having made a thorough examination of the agricultural resources of the Wabigoon country, I visited the town of Rat Portage, which is about eighty miles west from Dryden and 130 miles east of the city of Winnipeg. Rat Portage is the principal town between Lake Superior and Winnipeg. It has a population of between five and six thousand. Its citizens are a pushing, enterprising, public spirited people. The town is growing rapidly. The buildings of later years are durably built and of modern design. The town is situated at the northern end of Lake of the Woods, and is a divisional point on the Canadian Pacific Railway; it is also the commercial and judicial centre for that part of Western Algoma. It is the shipping port of Lake of the Woods. All the telegraph poles, railway ties, fence posts, and in fact all the timber from the Rainy River country, including sawn lumber, passes through this point on its way west to Manitoba. The Lake of the Woods and its tributary lakes, rivers and streams abound in fish. The fishing industry here has become one of considerable importance, so that Rat Portage, with its suburbs of Norman and Keewatin, is destined to become a very populous centre. These two villages are only a few miles from the town, with which they are connected by a good road, and in the summer steam ferry boats make hourly trips between these villages and Rat Portage. At Keewatin there is an immense water power, partly developed. Here is situated the Lake of the Woods mill, which is the largest flour mill in the Dominion, having a capacity of two thousand barrels a day, and elevators that will hold nearly five hundred thousand bushels of wheat. The manufacturing of flour and its bye-products, bran and shorts, has become an industry on which Rat Portage can permanently rely. In connection with the flour mill there is a barrel and siding factory which turns out about one thousand flour barrels per day; also house siding, planed, matched and all ready to put on in four feet lengths, large quantities of which are shipped to the Southern States. A few rods from the flour mill is situated the customs reduction works, where gold and silver is separated from the rock. A mill of this kind must materially

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