

damage. Last year Manitoba was entirely free from their ravages; and the people generally believe that they have entered on another period of exemption, and that should the pests reappear the settlers will be sufficiently numerous and well organized to stamp them out. Those who are desirous of learning about the grasshoppers, their origin, range, flight, swarming, and the best means of prevention to be adopted by the settlers attacked, I would refer to Mr. G. M. Dawson's Report in connection with the British North America Boundary Commission (pp. 304-311). No scientific work of such permanent value as this Report has been presented to the Government of the Dominion so far as known to me. While the Report is valuable as a contribution to the Natural History—especially the Geology—of America, the lucid style of the whole, and the concluding chapters, on the capabilities of the country with reference to settlement, make it interesting to the general reader. Mr. Dawson concludes that Manitoba—from its more northerly position and proximity to the great forest regions—appears to be less liable to wide-spread visitations of the grasshoppers than the regions further south, and that—as in those more exposed regions much has been done to limit or prevent their ravages—they can be successfully fought in Manitoba when population has increased and the settlers have learned to combine against the common enemy. It is also satisfactory to know that the North Saskatchewan country is not subject to their visitations.

While every one now assigns to the grasshoppers their due weight, other obstacles, once dreaded, have become less formidable as they were approached. Notwithstanding the fears of many, and the declarations of authorities, that neither the Red River nor the Saskatchewan could be utilized for steam navigation, steamers do navigate both rivers. The business done by the Red River steamboats is so lucrative that one trip to Winnipeg has been known to repay the owners the whole cost of

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