

*Military Police.*—It would, moreover, be necessary for the maintenance of law and order, the suppression of the liquor traffic, and the preservation of peace with and among the Indian tribes, to establish a provincial military police, somewhat on the system of the Irish constabulary; such a body would, moreover, serve as the nucleus on which to build should circumstances require, and it might be easily raised from among the present population.

*International Boundary.*—It would be advisable that at an early date the boundary should be run westward from the Lake of the Woods, where the Commissioners under the treaty of Utrecht terminated their labours in 1825; and from the nature of the country, this might readily be done by a small party, American and British, in a short time, and at little expense. The marking of it on the prairie far away from all settlements, or the chance of any for some time to come, could be easily accomplished by the erection of mounds or cairns at certain intervals in prominent positions. This is at present rather important in the region of Red River, for the position of the boundary having only been determined by passing travellers with the aid of ordinary sextants, is not known within a quarter of a mile; and this being only 75 miles from the centre of the British settlement on Red River, while Americans are pushing down this valley, should any revenue or other establishment be located on the wrong side of the line by either country, it might hereafter prove the source of some difficulty. Again, in the country of the Blackfoot Indians, towards the Rocky Mountains, some of the waters of the Missouri certainly come from British ground; and as treaties are now being formed with these Indians by the United States for the sale of their lands the boundary should be known in that part. The locality of the boundary has been determined in the mountains, and at their bases on either side (see Appendix II.), where I have drawn attention to the peculiar configuration of the mountains at that part, but the forty-ninth parallel is in no way marked. At any rate the determination of the boundary in the immediate neighbourhood of Red River should be attended to without delay.

*Future Settlement.*—Concerning the capabilities of the soil and climate for the purpose of agriculture, I have refrained from making general statements which might lead to erroneous conclusions, but have confined myself to speaking of those portions of which I have personal knowledge, or concerning which reliable evidence is to be obtained. From the information I have gleaned, I think that the first fresh settlement formed will be in the region of Manitoba and Winnipegosis Lakes and the Upper Assiniboine River; and that as immigration increases, settlements will reach the Saskatchewan about its forks, and thence up the north branch, Battle and Red Deer Rivers, where timber is comparatively not so scarce as in the more southern part of the country; and doubtless, in time to come, a considerable business will be carried on in bringing timber down the Saskatchewan from the Rocky Mountains. My reason for mentioning the country about the lakes and Upper Assiniboine is, because all those who have visited this district report that the greater portion is well adapted for settlement, the soil very fertile, and the climate probably differs little from that of Red River; and in regard to the means of communication, the bordering lakes would offer considerable facilities, as it appears that steamers of light draught might run from Red River Settlement to Lake Winnipeg through the Little Saskatchewan to Lake Manitoba, and thence to the Waterhen River into Winnipegosis Lake.

This is one route which has been proposed to the Saskatchewan, the distance across the Mossy Portage, marked on map between the last named lake and Cedar Lake, through which the Saskatchewan flows, being only four miles; but I should much doubt whether this circuitous line of communication with the Upper Saskatchewan would hold its own against the direct land transport through the plain country.

I have said that agricultural settlements are likely to flourish about the forks of the Saskatchewan, and thence to extend westward rather than south-west. My reason for this statement is, that the original prairie land, wherever I have seen it, is, as well as being destitute of wood, also wanting in good soil. For whether of a sandy, clayey, or gravelly subsoil, there is seldom more than a couple of inches of vegetable mould, and the southern part of the Saskatchewan country is generally speaking of this nature, which tract stretching southward beyond the Missouri, has in parts not inaptly been termed "desert." It must not, however, be inferred from this that all prairie land is sterile, for there are immense prairies in the valley of the Mississippi, which extend up to Lake Winnipeg, and account for the great fertility of the Red River Valley, which are quite of a different character, and are now called "arable prairie," in contra-distinction to the "dry upland, or rolling prairie;" while around the northern limit of the original prairie, and between it and the wooded district, is a belt of greater or lesser width, which having once been woods, has been cleared by the extension of the frequent prairie fires, and is now a comparatively open country, having a fine black vegetable soil; such is the region about the forks of the Saskatchewan, and much of the country to the north and west, while that bordering on the lower part of the Saskatchewan is so little elevated above the lakes and rivers, that although a great resort for waterfowl, it must for ages remain in its present state.

*Benefit to the Interior from a Communication with the Civilized World.*—But to speak of the interior generally, and the benefit it would derive from the improvement of the means of communication with the civilized world, it cannot but be supposed that many of those enterprising individuals in Canada and the Lower Provinces so impressed with the idea of "going west" would, if the means were at hand, rather make for the somewhat rigorous though healthy climate of the northern prairies, where they would still be under the government to which they have been accustomed, than, as they now do, migrate to the Mississippi States. Thus would a class of hardy and striving people be introduced among the somewhat indolent yet most capable population of the interior, while others, tempted by the offer of free grants along the line of land road between Lake Superior and Red River, in settling would supply some of the required links in the chain of civilization. Again, the half-breeds being a class brought up from their youth to voyaging by land and water, would abundantly supply that, in a country of such extent, much needed element, while many unsuited