

bloodshed; while tens of thousands are struggling in misery; we have ample room for many millions. Professor Macoun asserts that we have in the North-West 160,000,000 acres of good agricultural and pastoral lands, and 40,000,000 acres of lake and swamp lands. This great territory is equal to twenty-six States the size of the Province of Manitoba. There are now tens of thousands of Mennonites in Southern Russia dissatisfied with their situation, who are very anxious to remove and join their brethren in Manitoba if any encouragement was given them. Now is the time to take advantage of these circumstances. Those of that class who have become settlers in Manitoba—now numbering over 7,500—are prosperous and happy. They brought with them to the country over half a million dollars in cash, and their personal goods and effects were value for much more. Every settler adds material wealth to the nation. The moment he settles upon our soil he becomes a consumer, and soon a producer; and thereby contributes to the revenue. The development of the North-West by railway communication should be pushed forward at once. The profits that should accrue to farmers are eaten up by enormous freight charges. Wholesome competition by railway would relieve them from this evil. This is certainly the work of the Dominion Government, which holds possession of vast areas of land in the West. The construction of railways has been encouraged in almost every Province out of the Dominion exchequer. Manitoba is yet, comparatively speaking, in its infancy, with an empty treasury, having no revenue from the sale of Crown lands. It is dependent upon the subsidy of \$90,000 from the Dominion Government, to defray the expenses of government, public works, education, etc. We cannot expect the Local Government to undertake works of much magnitude; indeed it is questionable whether the above sum is judiciously expended. In travelling through the Province I noticed that many little bridges were swept away by the spring froshets, and were not replaced during the whole season, the settlers being put to great trouble and inconvenience in fording streams, when the legitimate expenditure of a few thousand dollars would have made many roads quite passable. This would have been a source of convenience and accommodation to settlers, and possibly the lack of bridges may have kept back many intending settlers who made vain efforts to examine the country and find an eligible location.

From Poplar Point to Rat Creek the settlers are principally Canadians, with the exception of several half-breed families, who are strung along the Assiniboine, many of whom are anxious to dispose of their properties and remove west to the haunts of the buffalo. Some of those Canadian settlers who located at first on purely prairie lands complained about the scarcity of timber. Most of them