

We now come to the Peace River district, which has become noted already for its delightful climate, the fertility of its soil, and its abundance of nutritious grasses. The land is very rich and interspersed with wood and prairie; the scenery is beautiful; and the fact that the wild animals of the plains thrive better there than anywhere else in the North-West, proves without a doubt that it is destined to become a great stock-raising country. Rough estimates have been made of the area of land, with soil suited to agriculture; but until the whole district has been thoroughly explored it is impossible to say how much there really is in the Peace River country. Over 50,000,000 acres, however, have been already pronounced of the very best quality of soil.

A cause of the exceptionally favourable climate of the Peace River district and also of the Saskatchewan, is to be found in the prevalence of warm westerly winds from the Pacific; and in addition to the favourable climatic conditions indicated by the thermometer, the length of the day in summer in the higher northern latitudes, favours the rapid and vigorous growth of vegetation, and takes the place to a certain extent of heat in this respect.

Our space necessarily prevents us from giving more than a passing glimpse of the vast fertile fields of the Canadian North-West, as a full and complete description of them would fill volumes; but it will be only a few years ere they will be better known, when teeming with happy and contented people, they will be pouring forth the golden grain by means of the numerous railways at present projected for speedy construction. The Canadian Pacific Railway, as already stated, is built for 660 miles west of Winnipeg, and in 1883 will be completed to the Rocky Mountains. All the branches of this line now completed amount to 1,271 miles. The length of branches and main line, when completed, will be 3,018 miles. Millions of acres of fine land will be thrown open for settlement in close proximity to the Railway, which will at once bring the new settlers in communication with the Eastern grain markets.

Besides the Canadian Pacific Railway, many other lines are projected:—The South-western, running from Winnipeg