

bined, to keep this land of "illimitable possibilities," as the greatest British statesman of the last generation named it, from sharing in the benefits of general immigration.

In the present day when the great bulk of the people of Canada and Great Britain are deeply interested in the settlement of the Great North West the published facts regarding that country are comparatively meagre, and are far from being generally known. It is a common belief, in Europe, and even in some portions of Eastern Canada, that a man who could live out a winter in this country, could get along very well at the North Pole, and that the only variation from these intollerable frosts and snows is an equally intollerable state of mud. The great fertility of the country and its unequalled agricultural advantages are left out of sight, if known at all, and on the *Ipsa dixit* of the utterly ignorant the whole region is relegated to the Indian and the buffalo.

A few facts and figures regarding the vast region lying between Lake Superior and the Rocky Mountains, and north of the 49th parallel of north latitude, now known as the Canadian North West, may not be uninteresting, even to the wilfully prejudiced, and we now add a few.

This vast country that we speak of is much larger than the whole United States east of the Mississippi river, and its area of fertile land is somewhere over 1,500,000,000 acres, which embrace more soil suitable for raising the finest grades of hard wheat, than all the balance of North America, and we may safely add, than any entire continent on the globe. The quality of the soil for grain raising is now finding ample testimony in the success of the farmers who are now tilling the same, and it is now an admitted fact by all who practically understand the quality of grain, that the great prairies of the Canadian North West produce the heaviest berry, and best yield of spring wheat in the world. Wheat weighing 65 pounds to the bushel measure is not unfrequent in this country, and higher figures than these have been reached in many cases.

With regard to the objection of climate, there probably never was a country so thoroughly misunderstood. It is true that the west bound emigrant on entering the lower Red River Valley is not likely to exclaim in the words of Montgomery