

other mining shares; in Winnipeg dealing in land-lots (which, by an ingenious American process known as "booming," are forced up to fancy prices) is found sufficiently exciting. The sooner the mania runs its course, the better will it be, I think, for *bonâ-fide* settlers. The stock of furs at the Hudson's Bay Company's establishment would have gladdened the heart of a connoisseur. It included skins of the black and brown bear, buffalo, beaver, ermine, fox, lynx, martin, skunk, otter, wolf, musquash, and wolverine, which were being packed in bales for the London market.

From Winnipeg we journeyed over 400 miles westward to Moose Jaw Creek, the farthest point which the Canada Pacific Railway then reached, though it was being pushed forward at the rate of from three to four miles a day, 22 miles having been laid during the preceding week. Of course the line had been previously graded. The track-layers dwell in boarding-cars (the hospitalities of which we were privileged to share), built up on trucks, which are pushed forward as each half-mile of rails is laid; so that the men are always close to their work. The sleepers and rails, being brought to the rear of the cars by construction-trains, are carted to the front, and the rails are transferred to a trolley. As each pair of rails are laid in position the trolley is pushed forward, the spikers follow and secure them in their places, the work being done with marvellous precision and freedom from confusion. The men were paid 9s. a day and earned it, for they worked like heroes. We passed a day at the new capital of the North-West, the city of Regina, which then consisted of about thirty tents, and, I suppose, has been subjected to the usual process of "booming" long ere this. It was not a particularly attractive place in its then condition, but my friend, who is of keen sporting proclivities, found consolation on the Pile of Bones Creek in some good duck-shooting, in the absence of the anticipated herds of bison and such "wild fowl," which, alas, had long since retreated before the railway pioneers. How shall we face those fair friends who left us with the parting injunction, "Be sure you shoot a pemmican"?

We met some wandering bands of Indians—Crees and Assiniboines—who were provided with horses and tents, and seemed well cared for; indeed, they are treated like pet children by the paternal