

far North Saskatchewan valley. The news startled settlers generally. Troops from Manitoba and Eastern Provinces were ordered to the Northwest to quell the same. Arthur Millbank was deeply interested in the state of affairs, but he was much more deeply interested in his brother Jake, when he got back and found him down in bed delirious with a fever, and Mr. Slickmouth, the machinery agent anxiously watching at his bed side.

#### CHAPTER V. RECOVERY.

Jake Millbank's fever was as long as well as a violent one, and the skill of Dr. Sawbones was taxed to its limits to bring his patient safely through. His mind seemed to keep wandering over his business troubles in the delirium, and often he was heard to mutter between nervous sighing spasms, the incomprehensible words, "One thing and one thing alone." Arthur was unceasing in his watchfulness of his brother, leaving the store in charge of Mr. Smith, who had agreed to stay during Jake's illness. Slickmouth, some of whose evil traits the reader has observed, showed how above the dark mantle of crookedness woven by a misguided experience, his naturally good heart would rise; for no brother could watch and nurse more kindly than he did Jake through the long weeks of burning fever. Poor Mr. Slickmouth, like many another man with a kind big heart, he had misinterpreted the first hard lesson of early life, and never afterwards could he see out of financial difficulty any way but a crooked one. Thus the true usefulness of many a good man is lost. At times the patient would look somewhat calmer, and reason would struggle to master delirium, then he would look up into the face of either of his nurses, and gasp Arthur or Sam, then gradually sink back into the delirium.

The fever had about spent its force and a lucid term of a few moments came. Jake looked up for the face of his brother or the machinery man, but another form was bending over him, and a pair of deep blue eyes full of tenderness and moist with tears gazed into his, a hand lighter and softer than that of either his brother or his friend stroked back his hair, and a pair of soft lips were pressed against his brow. He was too weak to ask who bent over him, although those eyes seemed to carry a sense of soothing relief to his fever tangled brain. That hand and the kiss of those lips brought a feeling of relief from pain, and as he gazed upward vacantly into the deep blue eyes, he gradually sank into a calm and almost feverless sleep, from which when he awoke four hours later, Dr. Sawbones pronounced the fever broken up.

When Jake Millbank recovered enough to move out of his room into his store he was astonished to learn the great changes which had taken place. His idle hours had been sold at good prices to a Government purchasing agent, as had several second-hand wagons he used to have in his shed. All had been wanted for military transport purposes. Arthur had sold his farm too, and made a profitable sale of it and the first act of business Jake did was to sign the deed. Six weeks after his recovery the rebellion was crushed and troops and transports were on their way home. Among the latter were many of his former customers, who with their teams had been in the service of the Government, and were returning with plenty of ready money in their possession. That fall Jake received payment of old bills he never expected to receive, and before the close of the year he was able to pay back to his brother all the cash he had advanced to secure a settlement with his creditors. The following fourth of February did not bring him any financial annoyance, and as he gave up all idea of making a success by dabbling in everything, he found he was able to make it by sticking close to one thing, namely, the business of a country general merchant.

Arthur Millbank made another visit to the Northwest in the early fall of 1887, that year of great prosperity in that country, when he was present to see a fastening made between Mr. Jacob Millbank and Miss Minnie Halton by the Rev. Mr. Wildman. That same winter the little town was incorporated and Jacob Millbank was the charter mayor. His worship stood at the door of his store on the fourth of February, 1888, and soliloquized as he looked around: "Yes, I cannot see a trace of my follies and misfortunes of three years ago." Here he stopped short, then muttered a little more audibly: "Blast it there's Sam Slickmouth and that setter bitch, the only relic of that aristocratic scoundrel, Ponsonby Neville."

### The North Country.

But little definite knowledge has yet been gathered about the country north of the Saskatchewan river, but enough has been made known during the last few years to dispel many of the

false ideas held about this great region. The popular idea throughout Canada regarding the north country is certainly far astray. It is not many years ago that Manitoba and the adjoining territory to the west was considered almost uninhabitable. When the true nature of the country, its soil, climate and resources became known, the Dominion of Canada assumed an importance in the minds of the people which they had never dreamed of before. We believe there is even a greater surprise in store for the people when a fuller knowledge has been gained about the country north of the Saskatchewan. Explorations made of late have already had the effect of dispelling much ignorance concerning this vast region, but we are only beginning to get our eyes open as to the great heritage which the Dominion has in the north. Lieutenant Colonel Butler, C.B., F.R.G.S. says:—

"Standing at the junction of the two Saskatchewan (the centre point of the Prince Albert district) the traveller sees to the north and east the dark ranks of a great forest, while to the south and west begin the endless prairies of the middle continent. Now, if we take a line from here and continue it on through the very rich and fertile country lying twenty to thirty miles north of Carleton, we will be passing through about the centre of the true fertile belt. The fertile belt has been defined as being bounded on the north by the North Saskatchewan river. It will yet be found that there are ten acres of fertile land lying north of the North Saskatchewan for every one acre lying south of it."

The opinion of this great explorer is valuable and must not be taken as a random assertion. Just think of it! ten acres of good land north to one south of the North Saskatchewan! If the country were equally valuable north and south of the great river we would have a vast heritage to the north, but this explorer estimates that the country to the north has ten times the value of that to the south. This is certainly wonderful, and almost beyond the comprehension of many Canadians who are steeped in the popular ignorance about our great north land. This ignorance has been dispelled concerning the country south of the Saskatchewan and it will soon be dispelled as regards the country to the north.

The vastness of the territory north of the North Saskatchewan river is a matter about which many are ignorant. It contains lakes of 10,000 to 12,000 square miles in size. Rivers which are measured in length by thousands of miles, the MacKenzie river being 2,500 miles in length, and vast areas of agricultural, grazing, timber and mineral lands. The greatest petroleum beds in the world are probably those north of the Saskatchewan. There are great areas of coal lands, while gold, iron and many other minerals are known to exist. All the northern lakes and rivers swarm with valuable food fishes, the whitefish being specially abundant and of fine quality. The total area of the country north of the North Saskatchewan is over 2,000,000 square miles. The area of the Austrian empire is 240,000; France is 204,000; German empire, 211,000; Spain, 197,000; United Kingdom, 121,000 square miles. These five great empires combined make up less than one half of the area of the country north of the North Saskatchewan. If therefore, only a small portion of the total is adapted to settlement, there will be room for many millions of inhabitants in such portion.

The country immediately to the north and east of Prince Albert is a great forest region of valuable timber land, interspersed with rich hay meadows. This must become the centre of a great lumbering industry in time. The soil is good, and when cleared of timber, will be valuable for farming and stock raising. The Shell river country north and east of Prince Albert is a large prairie region, having very rich soil, and is well adapted to general agriculture. Some settlers are already crossing to the north side of the river, both for farming and ranching—stock raising—and in time Prince Albert will probably have as large a population to the north as to the south. A road has been cut from Prince Albert northward a distance of about 125 miles, to Montreal lake, for freighting purposes. From the latter lake there is a water route via Churchill river by open boat to Hudson bay. Some fine whitefish and trout are brought to Prince Albert from the lakes. There are no civilized settlements in the district referred to, but there are a number of Indian settlements and trading posts at points between Prince Albert and Churchill, on Hudson bay. Some missions have also been established among the Indians. At Stanley mission a fine church of the Episcopalian denomination has been established, and it has a large congregation of Indian adherents. Part of the material for the church, such as the stained glass windows, etc., was brought from England, via Hudson bay. The lumber was sawn by hand on the spot. The country through to Hudson bay becomes rocky some distance beyond Montreal lake, and is supposed to be valuable in minerals.

### New Manitoba Flour Mills.

Manitoba has made progress the past year in the milling industry, a number of new mills having been established. Along the Manitoba and North-Western railway three new roller mills having been built, one each at Arden, Neepawa and Russell. On the Canadian Pacific main line and branches new mills have been built, one each at McGregor, Austin, Manitou and Pilot Mound; also an oatmeal mill at Portage la Prairie to replace the one burned last fall. At Brandon the mill has been rebuilt, and increased in capacity from 150 to 250 bbls per day. At Regina the mill was burned last fall. The latter was located the farthest west of any mill east of the mountains in Canadian territory. The new mills mentioned are mostly small, having an average capacity of about 100 bbls each per day. Last fall the first roller mill on the Canadian Pacific coast was completed. This mill is located at Victoria and has a capacity of about 200 bbls. The firm also operates a rice mill at Victoria. A train load of wheat was shipped from Manitoba for the Victoria mill recently, the supply of wheat on our Pacific coast being limited in quantity and soft in quality. A large number of elevators have been put up at Manitoba points during the past year, and the grain storage capacity of Manitoba, including Lake Superior ports, is now estimated at 3,000,000 bushels. Ten years ago Manitoba had no grain storage accommodation.