

from Northern Michigan. The more westerly regions will in like manner obtain a supply from the country along the base and in the valleys of the Rocky Mountains, which abound in timber of good quality.

10th Question. What facilities are there for grist mills, &c., in the prairie country?—

Answer. This is a difficulty shared in common with all other prairie countries or great alluvial plains, the waterfalls suitable for the purpose being of rare occurrence, and over considerable tracts entirely wanting. Instead of the numerous small mills therefore which supply the wants of a more broken country in this respect, larger milling establishments will spring up, either where there are great water powers or by steam, while windmills though less reliable will in the meantime sufficiently supply the local wants of the country in parts destitute of water power.

11th Question. Will the settlers find much difficulty in supplying themselves with fuel?

—*Answer.* Settlement will chiefly proceed in the first place near the banks of rivers, where there are generally, at intervals, considerable belts of wood, as there are also, in various parts of the country, and of course settlers will choose their locations with a view to these facilities. Then there is abundance of coal in the country, in some places so near the surface as to be obtained at little cost, and being on the banks of navigable rivers it will be cheaply transported to all parts where navigation reaches. The great coal fields as yet known are found in the western part of the "fertile belt" towards the Rocky Mountains, along the eastern base of which, indeed, they extend across the Athabaska and Peace rivers and even further north, but coal has also been found on the tributaries of Red River, though as yet to a small extent, but its mere existence being as yet proved it is of course impossible to say to what extent future development may show its abundance or the reverse. It is, however, on coal that the country will mainly depend permanently for its ultimate supply of fuel, and there is no need to apprehend shortcoming in that particular, as the great coal field existing towards the Rocky Mountains is said to be the largest in the world.

12th Question. What would be the prospect for large grazing farms in the prairie region; and what would be the effect of the winter upon stock?—*Answer.* The vast herds of Buffalo that swarm on the plains would seem to indicate the capabilities of the country for stock raising in a high degree. There is manifestly a great advantage over any part of the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, in the fact that in some parts of the country domestic cattle can be left out to forage for themselves, like the Buffalo, all winter. To a certain extent the Buffalo migrate in winter; but it is further north, not further south, they go, where there is more of woodland interspersed with the prairies, which affords shelter, and where probably the greater proximity to the Pacific, and greater depression of the intervening mountain chain, still further ameliorate the winter and cause more frequent thaws. Horses are frequently left out all winter at Red River, and find for themselves food enough to keep them in good condition, and cattle only require to be occasionally fed with hay; but further to the west (though further to the north also), all kinds of cattle may be left out, not only without detriment, but they are actually found in excellent condition in the spring.

13th Question. What are the mineral resources of the country other than coal, already referred to?—*Answer.* Its mineral resources are as yet but very imperfectly known. In the part I have myself explored, near Rainy Lake and other places, there are good indications of gold and silver, and the former is now being worked in that vicinity in the United States. The vicinity of the Lake of the Woods, the Winnipeg River, and generally the east side of Lake Winnipeg, abound in indications of mineral wealth, including iron, lead, plumbago, &c. The great chain of the Rocky Mountains, forming a prolongation of the Cordilleras of the south, and which seems to be the greatest auriferous and argentiferous belt in the world, continues its richness throughout the Central States and territories of the Union, and Montana (bounding us to the south along the 49th parallel, a yet undeveloped territory except as regards the gold and silver a few miners and "prospectors" have been working of late years), seems even to surpass in richness any of the previously discovered mining regions; and although its mines were only discovered a very few years ago, it is already yielding about \$12,000,000 (twelve million dollars) annually. The miners and explorers of that region have penetrated to the north of the boundary, and they declare that our territory on both the eastern and western slopes of the mountains is equally rich. If this be so, and there seems no reason to doubt it, the mining interest will soon become a very large one after access to the country has been opened up; and the fact that the very portal to the country, at