

greater advantages been hidden from the view of the enterprising emigrant in search of a western home, and the comfort and independence which the overcrowded state of Europe and the eastern portion of America have placed beyond his reach.

This work is intended to illustrate the magic growth of a North-Western city, and give instances where many by energy and enterprise have risen in a very short space of time from comparative poverty to opulence by trade and manufacturing pursuits.

Before settling down, however, to our record proper of Brandon, we feel it our duty to give some few facts and figures regarding the North-West generally, and particularly about those portions which are contiguous to, and in a commercial way tributary to this Infant City.

The Canadian North-West may be mapped out as follows:—All that portion of the Continent of North America north of the 49th parallel of north latitude; west of watershed between Lake Superior and the Red River of the North; east of the Rocky Mountains, and south of the Hudson's Bay and the Arctic Ocean. The most uninitiated student of geography must see at a glance that here is an immense tract of country nearly half as large as all the balance of the continent of which it forms a portion. This great country has been termed in by-gone days the British Siberia, fitted only for a home for the buffalo and the hardier tribes of American Indians; while of late years it has been represented as a country whose inhabitants lived up to the waist in snow during winter, which was varied in summer by a corresponding depth of mud; while the actual facts are that the Great North-West contains over 1,000,000,000 acres of the finest grain-raising lands in the whole world. This vast extent of country is capable of raising more of the finest grades of hard spring wheat than all the balance of North America, while the experience of agriculturalists during the last few years in the raising of root crops, if placed upon paper in figures, would seem fabulous. Yet these facts regarding wheat-raising should not astonish the student of American history. During the early settlement of the Continent the sunny plains of Virginia, and even the Carolinas, were considered productive wheat-fields. Later the rolling lands of Ohio and Kentucky were rated much higher in this respect, and in our own days, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Iowa have had their reputation, and Minnesota's day has also passed.