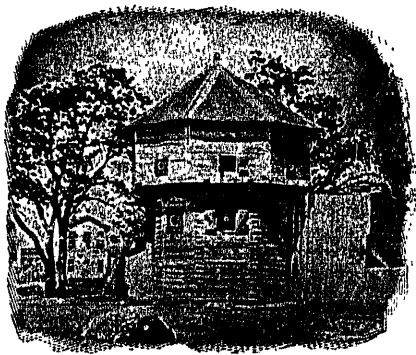


Growth of Population. Comparatively nothing was known of the agricultural capabilities of the country before 1870, when it was detached from Rupert's Land ("The Great Lone Land") under Hudson's Bay Company rule, and created a province by an Act of the Canadian Parliament. Previous to that time (1870) Manitoba was known only as a fur-bearing country, inhabited by Indians and half-breeds. At that time the population numbered about 10,000 souls, not more than 1,000 of whom were whites, and they, for the most part, employees of the Hudson's Bay Company. In 1881 the population had increased to 65,000, and at present it is about 275,000. When its wonderful capabilities are known to the thousands of people in the crowded portions of the old countries and the non-productive sections of the United States, the increase will be more rapid than ever.



In the olden time. H. B. Co. Fort.

The average snowfall of Quebec is 115 inches; of Ontario, 96; and of Manitoba, 62. It is not a country of deep snows—in short, railway trains are rarely blocked and seldom delayed by winter storms.

Water and Fuel. These are also very important considerations for the settler. The country is everywhere at easy distances intersected by creeks and rivers, and many lakes of varying dimensions exist, especially in the northern portion of the province. Some of these are well stocked with fish and wild fowl, affording amusement and supplying valuable articles of diet. Water in abundance, and of excellent quality, can also be got at depths varying from 10 to 40 feet in nearly

all portions of the province. All of the streams and lakes are skirted by blocks of timber which afford fuel for the settlers.

The Climate. One of the first questions a sensible man will ask is:

What is its climate? If the climate of any country is unhealthy, that country is undesirable, no matter what may be its advantages. The world's mortuary statistics show Manitoba to be one of the healthiest countries on the globe.

Malarial diseases are totally unknown in this country and contagious complaints are rarely heard of.

Manitoba is situated near the centre of the Canadian North-west, but in the eastern portion of the wheat-growing belt. Its winters are cold, but, having a clear sky, and as a consequence absence of the humidity of other countries, the extreme is not felt with the same severity of many other northern climes. There are no sudden changes, so that day in and day out the settlers dress for cold weather and enjoy the season through. The winter months are from the 1st of December to the 1st of April, and the summer season from the 1st of June to the 1st of September. Spring and fall are delightful and invigorating.

There are also beds of magnificent coal in several portions of the province, which is a guarantee of an ample supply of fuel for all time at a moderate price. By a wise provision of nature, the timber bluffs, streams, lakes and ground elevations preserve a humidity of atmosphere in the summer season that prevents those hot, parching winds, on the low, level, unbroken prairies in that portion of the United States known as the American desert. Hurricanes and cyclones are not experienced in Manitoba.

Topography. Although the country is prairie, it is in striking contrast with some parts of western America. It is not one monotonous level expanse, with nothing to relieve the eye. It is everywhere more or less undulating, dotted here and there with hills and valleys, very few of the former being rocky or barren, simply eminences affording good pasturage for all domestic animals.

Soil. There is here, as in all other countries, a variety of soils, but what may be called the characteristic soil of Manitoba is a deep black argillaceous