

would think that everybody is a paid agent to puff it. All of them seemed pleased with their prospects, and all of them were interested that others should think well of the land of their adoption. Another curious thing observable in going West is the gradation from Winnipeg—now a city of 30,000 people, with all the appliances of advanced civilisation—to the towns growing up at various distances west, the newest consisting of a few houses made of only a few boards, built on the prairie sod, and of tents figuring as hotels. At Medicine Hat, one of these new places, I found two photographers, three or four billiard rooms, and large shops where nearly everything you could desire was to be had. Some of these towns have newspapers, as well conducted as if they were places of long standing. No doubt the settler will find a cold climate in winter, but the statement must be taken with a good deal of qualification; for although the winter is a time when farm work cannot be carried on in the open air, yet a great deal of work can be done. A multitude of things can be done in the way of building, &c., which you would not think of in this country, where the temperature is very much higher; and although the stoppage of work is somewhat against the poorer population, the wages in summer necessarily come up to meet this. Cold is, after all, only a relative term. My experience of the South of Europe is that the cold is as much felt as in Manitoba, where they make provision for it and do not experience any serious consequences. One other matter. The country has treasures under the surface, as well as upon the surface. It is not to be an agricultural country merely, although such will be the case for a long time; and anyone who has travelled through the great farming districts of Minnesota and Dakota, and the more settled parts of Manitoba, will have an idea of their exuberant fertility and vast productiveness, such as you will hardly realise in any part of Europe. There are three classes of soil in Manitoba and the Western Territories of Canada. There is the great plain of the Red River, a vast country of extreme fertility of soil and of the best climate in the region, both in regard to the length of summer and the temperature of winter. There is the second prairie level, even more extensive, in which the city of Regina stands. This is a valuable wheat country, and is taking a position in the estimation of settlers as equal to the Red River. Then there is the third prairie level, west of Moose Jaw, which many people said would never become a farming country, but be useful only for grazing. It was thought to be too elevated and too dry. I am very glad to see the railway company has established experimental farms in this district, and I have no doubt they will turn out good crops, because the soil is exceedingly fertile, and the amount of rain-fall will increase as the settlement advances. With reference to the wealth under the soil, Mr. Begg has mentioned the gold mines of the country between Lake Superior and Red River, and I have seen very fine specimens of gold from these mines. But the lignite and coal of the western prairie are still