

PLEASANT HOURS

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THE DOMINION OF CANADA— THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES.

WESTSIDE of the Province of Manitoba extends the North-West Territory of Canada. It is bounded on the south by the 49th parallel, which divides it from the United States. It follows this line west to the base of the Rocky Mountains, which it touches at very nearly the 111th degree of west longitude, and takes a north-west trend to the base of the Rocky Mountains, until it comes in contact with the territory of Alaska, and proceeds thence due north to the Arctic Ocean. On the eastern side it is bounded by the Province of Ontario. North and east of the point as mentioned it comprises the remainder of the continent.

This vast territory contains great lakes and great rivers. The Mackenzie is one of the largest rivers in the world, and empties into the Arctic Ocean. Its estimated length is 2,000 miles, including the Slave River, which is a part of its system. This river is generally navigable, except at the base of the

mineral resources. Another great river, which takes its rise in the Rocky Mountains, is the Saskatchewan, which empties into Lake Winnipeg, having a total length of about 1,500 miles. The river is navigable from the lake to Fort Edmonton, and it drains an immense

11,000 square miles. The Great Slave Lake has a length, from east to west, of 300 miles; its greatest breadth being 50 miles. The Athabasca Lake has a length of 230 miles, averaging 14 miles in width, having, however, a very much greater width in some places. Lake Winnipeg has a length

of the north, as well as of the River Winnipeg, the Saskatchewan and others.

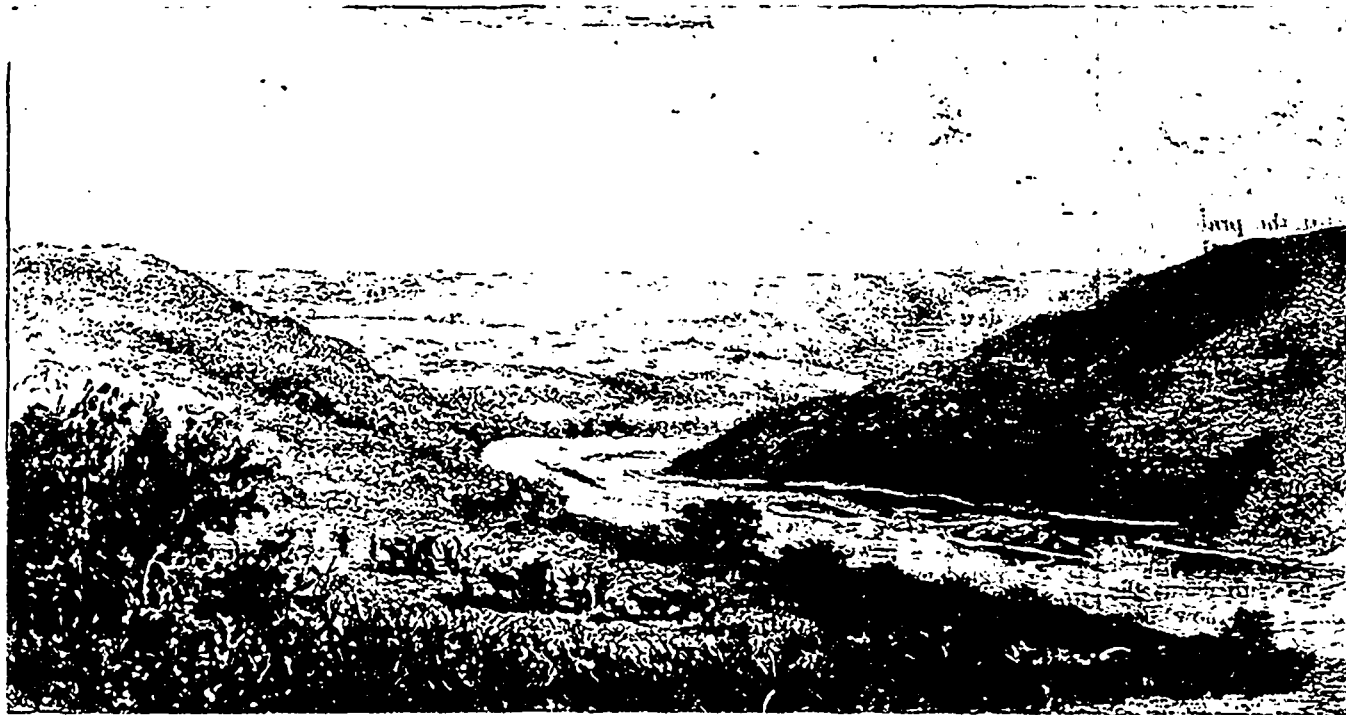
The mouth of the Nelson River is nearer to Liverpool than is New York, and the navigation, it is believed, is continuously open for over four months in the year. Efforts are, therefore, already being made to render available this near communication from the very centre of the continent with the port of Liverpool.

A remarkable feature of this great extent of territory is its division along lines running generally north-west and south-east, into three distinct prairie steppes, or plateaux, as they are generally called. The first of these is known as the Red River Valley and Lake Winnipeg plateau. The width of the boundary line is about 52 miles, and the average height about 800 feet above the sea. At the boundary line it is about 1,000 feet. The first plateau lies entirely within the Province of Manitoba, and is estimated to contain about 7,000 square miles of the best wheat-growing land on the continent, or in the world.

The second plateau or steppe has an



AN IMMIGRANT TRAIN.



SASKATCHEWAN RIVER—LOOKING WEST—FROM THE ELBOW.

Rocky Mountains, where it is interrupted by cascades. The country through which it runs is rich in mineral deposits, including coal. The Peace, another great river of the North West, has an estimated course of 1,100 miles, draining a country containing very great agricultural and

agricultural region. There are numerous other rivers in this territory, such as the Nelson, the Churchill, the Winnipeg, and the Assiniboine.

The lakes are the Great Bear Lake, the Great Slave Lake, the Athabasca, Lake Winnipeg and others. The Great Bear Lake contains an area of

of 280 miles, with a breadth of 55 miles. There are numerous other lakes of large size in the North-West.

The Nelson River drains the waters of Lake Winnipeg into Hudson's Bay; and the extent of its discharge may be imagined from the fact that this lake receives the waters of the Red River

altitude of 1,600 feet, having a width of about 250 miles on the national boundary line, and an area of about 105,000 square miles. The rich, undulating park-like country lies in this region. This section is specially favourable for settlement, and includes the Assiniboine and Qu'Appelle districts.