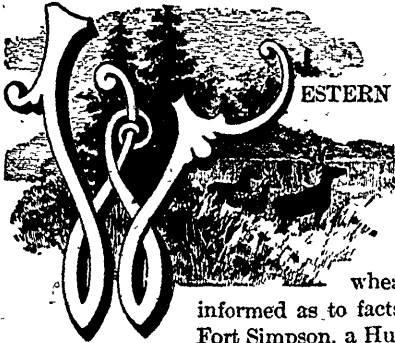


The World's Bread Basket is Western Canada



WESTERN CANADA is a *terra incognita* to a great many who have not had their attention directed to it. In fact, it is not long since a great American writer, in an article on the "Wheat Supply of Europe and America," made the statement that to the north of the international boundary there is only a narrow fringe of land capable of producing wheat. In replying to this, another writer, better informed as to facts, said that wheat could be successfully grown at Fort Simpson, a Hudson's Bay Company's post lying at the junction of the Laird and Mackenzie Rivers, near the intersection of longitude 122° west and latitude 62° north. Now, Fort Simpson is as far northwest of Winnipeg (the metropolis of Western Canada) as Winnipeg is northwest of New York. Not only is it possible to raise wheat at this degree of latitude, and that of a better quality than it is possible to grow in any other country, but two hundred miles north of that point rye and oats are grown; whilst two hundred miles still further north barley and potatoes are successfully produced.

279,000 Square Miles of Agricultural Country

In speaking of the extent of the country referred to in these pages, one writer says: "Leaving out the 400,000 square miles of Keewatin, the 382,000 square miles of British Columbia, with its untold wealth of forests, fisheries and mines, and Athabasca, with its area of 122,000 square miles, we have left, then, Manitoba and the districts of Assiniboia, Alberta and Saskatchewan, extending four hundred miles north and south, and nine hundred miles east and west, and embracing an area of 359,000 square miles. If we draw a line through Harper's Ferry, from the northern boundary of Pennsylvania to the southern line of Virginia, and take all west of that line to the Missouri River, embracing part of the States named and all of West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri and Iowa, we shall have an American territory equal in extent and area, and in no wise superior in agricultural resources, to the Canadian territory under consideration!"

A recent writer, resident in Sweden, gives an idea of the size of Canada by making the following comparison: "Canada is, in brief, as large as the whole world of Europe."

In Canada there are two hundred and seventy-nine thousand square miles of land not surpassed in fertility by any area of similar size on the face of the globe, most of which is embraced in what is here described as Western Canada.