

China by means of an Artesian well. At least, this was the expectation at the time of my visit. I have not since heard whether China has adopted a Geary law to the contrary or not. For hotel accommodation, this is the poorest in the world. The host gets drunk early in the evening and spends the night knocking at the doors of his guests. Being a guest myself, I was not overlooked in this respect. Otherwise, I spent a very pleasant night. There were two of us and we did not feel alone.

Then we must not forget the rising town of Melita, further to the west. I remember of taking a drive once with another gentleman from Deloraine to Melita. It was after night. About 3 o'clock in the morning we arrived, weary and sad at the commercial centre of Melita. It was then just beginning its career. There was only one hotel, a large tent, and it was full. As we came within the town limits, every man's dog from within a circumference of some miles, began his own, individual howl. The gentleman who was with me said that there must be about 1,000 dogs barking at us. Seeing that he was a student, buoyant and sanguine, I ventured to rebuke him. He felt ashamed when I told him that there could not be more than 500. Each dog had his own bark and it was some time before we managed to reduce the discord to harmony. Desirous of sleep, we climbed into a hay

mow, where in company with many who had desired sleep before us, we obtained rest. Misery does acquaint one with strange bed-fellows. With the dawn, we discovered that we were not alone and unprotected. The hay mow seems to have been used that night by men who had come to the town to work on the railway.

Further west than Melita on this line, we will not go. That would take us to the coal fields and our journey is not with that object. We will retrace our steps around by Winnipeg and turn for the Pacific Coast. Between this southwestern branch and the main line of the Canadian Pacific, lies the fertile district known as Southern Manitoba. It has been most successful as a farming locality. With the exception of an occasional hailstorm and some slight frost, it has so far stood the test.

We are now on the main line of the C. P. R. The first town of any extent west of Winnipeg is Portage la Prairie, with about 4,000 of a population. It is in what is considered the best farming region in the Province. Fields of waving wheat extend about fifteen miles, north, east and west, besides a large grazing district along the shore of Lake Manitoba. Portage la Prairie is one of the principal grain markets in the Province. It is north of this some twelve miles that the large farm of 1,280 acres is being worked. It is a thriving little