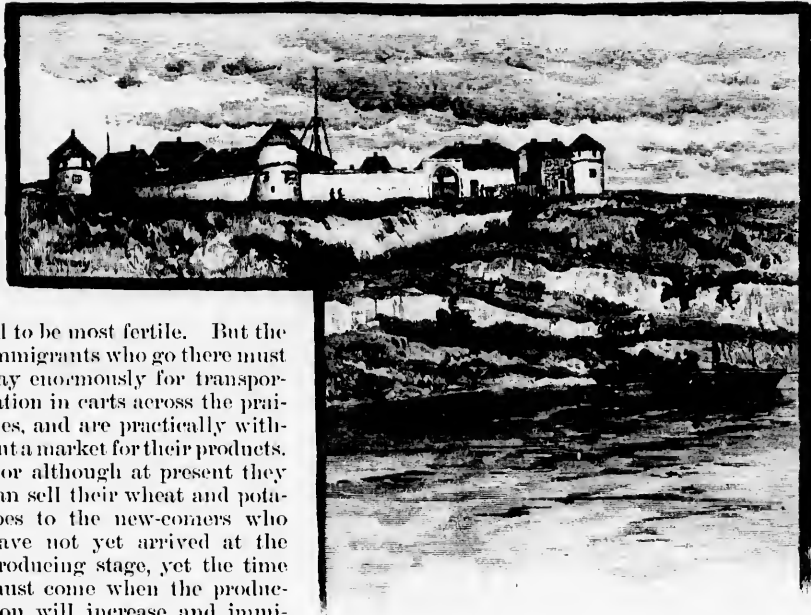




FORT GARRY.

ed to be most fertile. But the immigrants who go there must pay enormously for transportation in carts across the prairies, and are practically without a market for their products. For although at present they can sell their wheat and potatoes to the new-comers who have not yet arrived at the producing stage, yet the time must come when the production will increase and immigration decrease until the local market is oversupplied, and then farming will be neither amusing nor profitable. The Canadian Pacific Railway will, of course, remove this difficulty; but it is hard to say where it will run or how soon it will be finished. The hopes of the people are set upon the completion of this road, and thus far they seem to find no trouble in living on hopes and growing fat withal.

The immigration into Manitoba has been astonishingly rapid. Two causes have recently operated to check it. A great deal of the best land in the province is excepted from the homestead provisions of the Land Act by a complicated system of reserves. For instance, a belt of five miles on either side of the proposed railway line is only open to purchasers at six dollars an acre. The second and still greater obstacle is the law passed in July last, practically limiting the homestead grant to eighty acres. It is absurd to suppose that settlers will content themselves with this amount when they can get 160 acres of equally good land under similar conditions by simply crossing the imaginary line which divides the British Possessions from the United States. In the light of these facts it was amusing to read a quotation from a speech made in September

last, at an agricultural dinner, by Lord Beaconsfield, in which he gravely stated that nearly all of the largest land-holders in the extreme western States of America had sold out their farms and gone to seek a living in the new Canadian territory. As an effort of the Oriental imagination, this was excellent; but as history, it was amazingly incorrect. The immigrants into Manitoba, with the exception of the Mennonites, have been almost without exception British subjects, and a very large majority of them have come from the province of Ontario. Large numbers, being dissatisfied, have recrossed the line, and settled in Dakota and Minnesota. In Pembina County alone the number of Canadians is reckoned at one-half of the population.

The most interesting object in Winnipeg—perhaps we may say the only thing which has anything of the picturesque about it—is Fort Garry, the headquarters of the Governor and company of adventurers of England trading into Hudson's Bay. It stands well up above the swift, muddy current of the Assiniboine. Seen from the opposite bank of the river in the lingering glow of an amber twilight, there