

The foregoing details have been produced to exhibit the general features and advantages of the country which extends between Minnesota and the gold region of the North Pacific. It now remains to arrange the facts relative to the journey thither by the route of Pembina and the Saskatchewan. To do so, the committee propose to compile from an overland journey of Sir GEORGE SIMPSON, Governor of Hudson Bay Company, which was published in 1847, whatever facts may throw light upon the experience of a traveller over the same route.

The journey from St. Paul to Pembina is familiar to all. From Pembina to the junction of Mouse River with the Assineboin, there is a well defined track over a plain, such as Sir GEORGE SIMPSON describes on the way to the same point from Fort Garry. Under date of July 3d, he says : "On the east, north and south, there was not a mound or tree to vary the vast expanse of green sward, while to the west (it would be to the north of our advancing party) was the gleaming bays of the Assineboin, separated from each other by wooded points of considerable depth."

Gov. SIMPSON, with relays of horses, made the journey from Fort Garry to Edmonton in thirteen days, about forty-six miles per day. Commencing with his diary of the third day from Fort Garry, (at the point where a party from Pembina would intersect his trail) such extracts will be made as embody useful information :

*July 5.*—"On resuming our journey we passed among tolerably well wooded hills, while on either side of us lay a constant succession of small lakes, some of them salt, which abounded in wild fowl. In the neighborhood of these waters the pasture was rich and luxuriant ; and we traversed two fields, for so they might be termed, of the rose and the sweet briar. On reaching the summit of the hills that bounded the pretty valley of the Rapid River, we descried an encampment, which proved lodges of Saulteaux Indians. We spent an hour in fording the stream." No assistance from the Indians, but unmolested by them.

*July 6.*—A good supper of wild fowl, which was very numerous in the small lakes still along the route—a large salt lake—hilly and well wooded district—complaints of mosquitoes.

*July 7.*—Passed Bird's Tail Creek, a rapidly flowing tributary of the Assineboin—beyond this stream an undulating prairie of vast extent—bands of antelopes—ferried over the Assineboin to Fort Ellice in a batteau, swimming the horses—leaving the Fort, passed through a swampy wood, forded the Qu'appelle or Calling River, and surmounting a steep hill, encamped on a level meadow of several thousand acres in extent.