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The Two Great Red Rivers

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THE RED RIVER OF THE NORTH.

The clayey mould, rich in organic deposits, that constitutes the level prairie reaches of the Red River Valley, is perhaps what gives the water its color and the river its name. And its adaptability has brought forth the bright blue flowers of the flax fields and the wheat fortunes that have come with the harvest.

An unjust notoriety has been given the "rigorous" winters of the Red River Valley country. But the summer, and autumn is never too short to harvest and care for the crops to which it is best adapted. And there is a gradual transition from Indian Summer to the first snow fall, a week of which usually puts the surface in condition for snow shoeing toboggan slides, skating and sleighing. This lasts for two months and over for a longer period. The sound of the sleighing bells adds to the exhilarating sense produced by the pure bracing atmosphere. These delightful sports the inhabitants of the Red River of the south know not of.

But in April the prairie anemone covers the southern exposures to the verge of the retreating snow, the growing wheat is a carpet of green, the alders and willows of the Red and tributaries are in bloom and soon the entire prairie is resplendent with the blue and scarlet petals of the magnificent native flora. Anon, the day is measured by the click of the harvester: then the energizing hum of the thresher tells the World that they may have bread again.

At the Height of Land—about 1,000 feet above the sea level—within a few miles of the source of the Mississippi River, is the beautiful shadowy wooded, Elbow Lake, the source of the Red River of the north. Just over to the west is the Coteau des Prairies, South Dakota, which

between the Dakotas and Minnesota.

The next tributary is the Bois des Sioux at the mouth of which is located the twin cities of Wahpeton, North Dakota, and Breckenridge, Minnesota; thriving places. The seat of Red River Valley University, the lo-

west. Here about are located many thrifty Norwegian and Danish settlers—to the per cent.—that they, though thoroughly American, have installed their institutions, have newspapers published in their language and other customs peculiar to their Mother Country. Moorehead has wagon and sleigh factories. Grand Forks, North Dakota, located at the mouth of the Red River, has a population of about 10,000; is the seat of the University of North Dakota, and numerous other schools. It is in an agricultural district and where wooded it has the added industry of lumbering. The city manufactures flour and articles made of wood. Near the boundary between the United States and Canada is the mouth of the Pembina. And the city of that name, which was settled by a French trader in 1780, and again (permanently) in 1812 by a Scotch colony backed by the Hudson's Bay Company. This is perhaps the oldest city in the Red River Valley. Pembina is a grain shipping point and is at the head of deep water navigation of Red River.

There was located at the junction of the great prairie River, Assiniboine, and the Red, in the early part of last century, contemporaneous with four other forts and settlements in the vicinity, one of Hudson's Bay Company's early forts and supply depots. This is now the booming city of Winnipeg with a cosmopolitan population of thousands. This prairie city with its railroads, mills, factories, schools, churches and business



Picking Cotton, near the Red River of the South

is 2,000 feet above the sea level and the greatest heights this river drains. The Red's first tributary, the channel to Lake Traverse, is called the Mustinka River, and it is this section of Minnesota that the natives designate "The Park Region." From Lake Traverse onward to Canada the river is the boundary

cation of wagon factories, flour mills and various other industries. Near the mouth of the Cheyenne, the Red's second largest tributary, are two other twin cities: Moorehead, Minnesota, and Fargo, North Dakota. It No. 1 Hard Wheat. At Fargo is located one of the largest farm machinery depots in the North-



Threshing on the Red River of the North