

difficulties or dangers from the completion of anything he undertook. Mr. McKay employed a great number of Indians on the road, at once securing their services and good will.

From Pointe du Chêne to the North-West Angle there is all the timber that could be required for railroad purposes for fifty years to come, whilst a very considerable quantity of White and Red Pine is to be found on the main land and islands all the way to the Height of Land, that can be made available for building and manufacturing purposes.

Mr. McKay has used this timber very extensively in the construction of the road, two thirds of which runs through swamps, and had to be bridged with timber, and then ballasted with earth, sand and gravel.

The accommodation for immigrants along the road is very good, log buildings well kept and clean, with attentive men to look to the wants of travellers, and at every Post along the road there is good stabling for horses. It must, however, be remembered that the road was not completed till September, which caused some complaints to be made by grumblers who passed over the road during last summer, and who, though they were only called on to pay a mere trifle in the shape of passage money, seem to have been filled with the idea that they ought to have been taken all the way in palace cars.

The bridges over the White Mouth and other rivers are particularly well built, strong and substantial in every way, and reflect credit on the builder, Mr. McKay, who personally superintended their construction. In fact the road, take it as a whole, is the best I ever travelled over, considering that it was scarcely completed when we passed.

From the North West Angle we were taken across the lake at the rate of about nine miles an hour by a fast little steam launch, the "Santa Maria," and by others, the "Pinta" and "Nina," &c., all of the same class, from one stretch of water to the other along the whole route.

The Rainy River is a beautiful stream, clear water, splendid scenery, magnificent water power all along its length, and running, as it does, through a country that is very well adapted for cultivation, I believe the day is not far distant when its banks will teem with life and civilization, and its water powers will give vitality to hundreds of factories, that will find a market for their productions in the mineral regions that stretch away from the Lake of the Woods through to Lake Superior, north-east, and in the Province of Manitoba and the other dozen of provinces that will soon spring up in this vast North-West Territory.

Fort Francis is beautifully situated at the head of Rainy River, where the waters of the lake rush over a vast barrier of rock, stretching across the whole width of the stream, making such a magnificent waterfall as is seldom seen. From the Fort the view is uninterrupted for miles down the river, save where it is broken by the very beautiful little gems of islets with which the River is adorned from the one lake to the other. A more splendid site for a town cannot be found than at Fort Francis, and with the immense water power, equal if not superior to that on the Ottawa, plenty of building material, and open navigation to the North-West Angle, I feel convinced that very soon a prosperous town will spring up at that point.

All along the water route the lakes are sprinkled with beautiful islands from the size of a lady's parasol to thousands of acres in extent, most of them well wooded; every one, small and large, decked out in the glory of its own rich dress of foliage, smiles down at its beautiful reflection in the clear waters of the lake. In a few, very few years this route will be overrun with sum-