

As will be seen by the accompanying map, the County of Westbourne occupies a very central position in the Province of Manitoba. It is immediately adjoining the Portage Plains, a district well known all over the Dominion as having produced for the last twenty years magnificent crops of wheat. This county is bounded on the east by Lake Manitoba, and the presence of so large a body of water has rendered it practically free from damage by either early or late frosts.

The land varies from black loam to sandy loam. The bulk of it is high and dry and does not need any expenditure whatever for clearing or drainage. Some parcels have more scrub and poplar wood than others, but there is not a claim offered that has not from fifty to a hundred acres of land that is open prairie that will require no expense in bringing under cultivation, except breaking and back-setting. The whole country is level land, but there are no large stretches of prairie without any trees or brush, and there are some portions which are somewhat heavily timbered: so that a settler is not at any time more than a few miles distant from where he can obtain a supply of wood. Most of this is poplar, but there is along the banks of the Westbourne river a considerable amount of oak, ash and elm. Along the shores of Lake Manitoba there is an abundant supply of wild hay, and there are many sections of land throughout the county where a supply of hay can be obtained, especially if the season is wet.

Water has always been easily obtained in the County at a depth of from twelve to forty feet.

The County is essentially adapted for mixed farming. Large numbers of cattle have been shipped annually for several years to eastern markets, from 5 to 15 cars having been loaded at Westbourne at one time during the shipping season. Dairying interests are gradually securing more attention. One creamery has been established near Gladstone that is doing well, and others, no doubt, will follow in due course.