

"parts of Central Manitoba is becoming a serious one for contemplation, as, without a new source of supply opening up, in a very few years these places will be wholly dependent upon coal for fuel.

"Winnipeg has for many years drawn its supply of cordwood from the territory adjacent to the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, East, between East Selkirk and Keewatin.

"This territory has been pretty well cut over for a distance of fifteen miles on either side of the track, and cannot be depended upon much longer.

"Owing to the now-limited quantity of cordwood to be got from the East, Winnipeg is drawing on the Pembina Mountains and Tiger Hills and even from the Eastern slope of the Riding Mountain (via the Lake Manitoba Railway & Canal Co.) for cordwood supplies besides upwards of 4,000 cords of wood were brought in from the States during the past year.

"The most serious aspect of this is that the supply coming from West of Winnipeg must, if a check is not made, rapidly denude the lands of timber there, causing a still more serious blow to the country, in that a large and populous agricultural district will be left without a supply of timber. The settlers residing along the Red River between Winnipeg and Emerson and for some distance West of the river draw their fuel requirements from the East bush, distant about forty miles East of the river."

It is plain, therefore, that this work is of more than local interest. It is even of more than Provincial interest, it is of national interest. The Red River is a national highway, owned and controlled by the Government in trust for the people. It is their duty to make it useful to the people and