

buffalo trails in every description. Animal life, rare enough upon the plains at this season, is more abundant on this plain than elsewhere. We saw pheasants, plover, curlew, snipe, a dozen varieties of birds not known to the sportsman, hawks, crows and a few ducks. Crossing a creek eighteen miles from Qu'Appelle, we passed a tract of country six or eight miles wide, which is the only land for the whole seventy miles whose agricultural character is doubtful. The land is level and the soil exceeding rich, but it is heavy, cold and tenacious, and has been raised by the action of frost into small hummocks which make it like a corduroy road to drive over. The vegetation here is of a different character, the fine grass giving way to coarse weeds. Leaving this, we found the old familiar prairie, with gently rolling hills and clumps of trees, increasing in number as we approached the river, until the road wound through the most beautiful park region imaginable, with vistas of wooded hillside and meadow and occasional glimpses of the wooded banks of the river between them. The Qu'Appelle River, like the Assiniboine, flows through a valley one to two miles wide and about 250 feet below the prairie level. The banks are less wooded than those of Ellice, permitting the contour of their symmetrically rounded hills to be plainly seen. The clay of the prairie has been cut by water action into a thousand varying shapes, without a sharp angle in any of them, and all is clothed in green grass. A dry coulee, running into the river at right angles at this point makes a projecting promontory and adds to the picturesque effect.

Unlike Fort Ellice, the buildings at Qu'Appelle are within the valley, and it is necessary to descend a most precipitous wagon road to reach them. Half way down one turns a sharp corner, and comes in view of a beautiful sheet of water, filling the whole width of the valley, with white roofs shining through the trees, on either side of the small, clear and rapid stream that flows out of it. This is No. 3 of the fishing lakes, famous in the primitive annals of the Northwest. There are four of these lakes, expansions of the river, extending five or six miles along the valley. They are forty to fifty feet deep, of clear water and gravel bottom, and still full of excellent fish. When the Qu'Appelle lakes become generally known and easier of access, their softer beauties will rival