

## THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF MANITOBA.

The traveller, pursuing his journey westwards from Winnipeg, would say that all the land which meets the eye is good farming land, but it is only as he reaches Poplar Point that he sees the best of it.

The land stretching from there to Rat Creek, and from the River Assiniboine to Lake Manitoba, cannot be excelled for agricultural purposes. Practical men, who have viewed the wheat-lands of California, the extensive plains of Australia, and the wide-spreading prairies of the Western States, agree on this point.

The river lots from Poplar Point to Portage la Prairie were, for the most part, taken up ten years ago by native inhabitants from the Red River Settlement below Winnipeg, who have sold out again in turn to Canadians and Hudson Bay Company employees. The land outside of the river lots is also rapidly filling up.

The statements that I have made with regard to the enormous yield of cereals and roots, are not over estimated. As a further proof of this, in October, 1871, one quart of Fall wheat was sown not far from Winnipeg, the same was harvested in August, 1872, and produced the very best sample of grain at the rate of 72 bushels per acre, which was exhibited at the Minnesota State Fair, and pronounced the best sample on exhibition.

There is stated to be a settlement on the Lake of the Woods road, on the Dawson route, with a beautiful park-like appearance, abutting on the River Seine, in Township X, Range 4, in which several families from Ontario are settled, whose land must shortly become very valuable, being within ten miles of the town of Winnipeg.

Springfield, another settlement in an easterly direction from Winnipeg, now presents quite a thriving appearance, and contains from 60 to 70 families. Near it is another settlement known as Sunnyside, containing about 30 families, nearly all from Ontario. The half-breeds are settled for the most part along the Assiniboine and Red Rivers.

The reader will observe, from the above remarks, that it is not an unsettled country to which he is invited to go and make himself a home on a free grant, but that there are plenty of settlements which he can join. Advantages are afforded in Manitoba and the North West that a new settler in the Western States, though lying further to the South, could not possess, of which I will now make mention.

*First* In Manitoba the land is principally prairie, requiring no clearing for agricultural purposes, although timber is to be found in sufficient abundance for building purposes, fencing, and fuel. In addition to the latter there are the large coal-fields further west on the Saskatchewan River.

Wherever settlements have been established both grist and sawmills are to be met with.

*Secondly* In the Western States the Railway Companies own the lands from 10 to 20 miles on either side of their respective roads, which settlers cannot obtain as Free Grants, but for which they have to pay from \$2.50 upwards per acre, according to locality. In the Province of Manitoba, however, the settler