

north tilts that river towards its outlet in Lake Winnipeg, the system of the Qu'Appelle River flows into Lake Manitoba, and while the affluents of the South Saskatchewan cut the frontier, they afterwards flow through the great plains north of the line as they wind towards the mouth of the great combined river at the head of Lake Winnipeg. To the southward of the frontier the waters of the Big Muddy, Milk River, &c. flow to the vast Missouri and Mississippi system.

The plains themselves are formed in three steppes, rising towards the Rocky Mountains; the lowest prairie is 700 feet above the sea level, and extends along the Canadian Pacific Railway about 200 miles, as far, that is, as the boundary of Manitoba; the second is 150 miles wide in the same line, ending at Regina; and the third and more irregular steppe extends to the foothills of the Rockies, at about 3,200 feet level, for 450 miles. The great rivers have worn deeply into the soil upon each steppe, and there are many beds of river branches now dry crossing the plains, which are known as coulees.

Along the level plain, here and there wooded prettily with deciduous trees, farms and villages now and then in sight, and with an occasional glimpse of the river Assiniboine, we were travelling along merrily in the morning, seeing at Portage la Prairie our first prairie town, with its wooden houses gaily painted, widely laid-out streets with houses having wide intervals between them, and were able to note the intense blackness of most of the soil.

At Brandon we reach a country with some undulation, and are at the point where the railway crosses the Assiniboine; this is to be one of the great towns of Manitoba. In 1881 the first house was erected: in 1884 there were 3,000 inhabitants, and a corporation. The excursionists here, as at all the principal towns where time allowed, were received by the chief officials of the place and hospitably entertained. Our leader, Sir Richard Temple, and others, acknowledging suitably the compliments paid.

At stoppage for water in this neighbourhood many interesting specimens, botanical, entomological, and animal, were obtained, and often picturesque groups of settlers and Indians were seen as we moved along, which Mr. De Hamel, one of our party, briefly notes, "Ospreys, harriers, martins and sparrow hawks, grèy and black ducks, widgeon and teal in the slues, and an occasional bittern in the marshes, with here and there a covey of prairie chickens, that flew heavily for a short distance and then re-alighted and ran, a trail of mounted Indians plying by, another group with their wagons, a couple driving a buckboard drawn by two mustangs, a colt running alongside, all gave a distinctive character to the landscape as our train ran quickly by."

At Broadview we found a number of Indians hanging about the station: they were great curiosities to our unaccustomed eyes. They belonged to the Cree race. I endeavoured to make notes of some of them, but they were apt to retire into their blankets at once when they saw one drawing. One of the young squaws was, however, good enough to gaze at me long enough for a slight sketch. She was a handsome girl in her way, and she heightened her beauty by, first, what an