
part of the Dominion of Canada, and by Sec. 34, Chap. 42 of 31 Victoria, are under the management of this Department.

The extensive Territory thus transferred possesses a very large area suitable for the growth of wheat and coarse grains, roots and vegetables, second to no country on this continent.

The statements made as to the great fertility and productions of the soil are fully verified by those who within the last few years have visited that country, or made it their home.

Valuable minerals, among others gold, silver, and coal, are known to exist in it. With regard to the latter, its importance, in view of the extent of prairie in the Territories, it would be difficult to over-estimate; and steps are contemplated during the coming season which will in part elicit information as to the character and extent of this deposit.

The northern portion of this Territory, where it ceases to be valuable for agricultural purposes, is valuable as being the great fur-producing region of this continent.

The Province of Manitoba, to which the attention of this Department has been in most part directed, is taken out of the south-east portion of the Territories, and embraces the land contained between the 96th and 99th meridian west of Greenwich, and between the international boundary or 49th parallel of latitude, and latitude $50^{\circ} 30'$; it covers about 13,908 square miles, equal, nearly, to 9,000,000 acres.

The liberal land policy adopted, which gives to a *bona fide* settler a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres on condition of a three years occupancy, will it is believed tend to attract a share of the emigration at present flowing from Northern and Central Europe to this part of the future great grain growing region of the Dominion.

Our own people who desire change, or those who wish to engage in farming, can here obtain a prairie home without having to sacrifice their allegiance, or disown their attachment to the British flag.

All that is necessary for the rapid settlement of Manitoba and the North West Territories, is that railway connection be had between them and the older Provinces. This will be furnished by the Canadian Pacific Railway, when constructed.

In the interim the "Dawson route," which passes through our own country, will provide a good highway for summer travel. The Red River, which has been tapped by the American lines of railway, can also be used to good purpose during the season of navigation.

To meet the requirements of settlement a large number of surveyors were employed during the past year, for whom, and the working parties they required, provisions had to be sent into the Province; these were furnished to them at cost price, with freight and all other expenses added.

Supplies, in like manner, have been ordered to meet the wants of the largely increased surveying staff to be employed during the coming season.

For the conducting of those surveys and the management of these lands a branch has been added to this Department, known as the Dominion Lands Branch, at the head of which John Stoughton Dennis, Esq., has been placed with the title of Surveyor-General.