

able is not absolutely essential, indeed it is well known there are at this moment in the settlements not a few prosperous farmers who, until they came to the North West Territories, had been engaged in totally different pursuits, but what is really a sine qua non is steady hard work, whether in person or by proxy, if the new comer be in a position to hire labor. With a free grant of 100 acres of splendid land to which he may add another 100 by

purchase on extremely easy terms, a fine climate, exemption from rent and in a great measure from taxation also, the settler who puts his shoulder to the wheel will soon become independent, and in no part of the North West Territories will he find more facilities or have a better prospect of attaining this happy condition than in the electoral district of Kinistino.

The Kinistino District.

By Wm. Ogilvie, D. L. S., of the Department of the Interior Survey Staff.

This district includes townships 35 to 47, ranges 1 to 23 west of the 2nd meridian, and the same townships in ranges 30 to 32 west of the 1st meridian; also townships 45, 46 and 47, ranges 15 to 30 west of the 1st Meridian. Its north west corner almost touches the south branch of the Saskatchewan River. Carrot River rises in the north west part of the district, and crosses its north boundary about range 16 west of the 2nd meridian. The Birch Hills are situated about the middle of the western boundary and continue eastward to about range 15 or 16, when they merge into the Pasquia Hills which continue north eastward and cross the north boundary about range 6. Many fine creeks flow out of these hills northward into Carrot River, principal among which are Melfort creek, (formerly called Stony Creek) and Leather River, (sometimes called the Hanging Hide River.) There is some fair spruce timber situated on the head of these streams, and a small saw and grist mill is in course of erection on Melfort Creek, in township 44, range 18 west of the 2nd meridian.

Mr. Reginald Beatty, who has lived in the township during the past nine years, and has pretty well examined all the surrounding country, states that Carrot River is navigable for flat bottomed, stern wheeled steamers from its mouth up to the junction with Leather River. Carrot River joins the Saskatchewan River just below Indian Pear Island Lake. Red Deer River rises near the centre of the district and flows generally north eastwards through the northeast corner into Lake Winnipegosis. Lakes and ponds are numerous in the district. Many of the former are quite large. The water is generally brackish, but not unfit for use.

It is probable the Manitoba and North Western Railway will cut the west half of the district pretty well in two, and the North West Central Railway will traverse the south west corner. The district also lies almost directly in the line of the probable railway from Prince Albert to Hudson Bay, which, if any railway to the Bay is a success, must also be successful. Its probable means of communication with the markets of the world are therefore equal to those of any other part of the Territories. Prince Albert is distant from Churchill, on the Hudson Bay, by the probable route of the railway between them, about 700 miles, and Churchill is in round numbers about 8000 miles from Liverpool. For the greater part of its length this road will pass through timbered country, much of which will no doubt be available for lumber purposes,

thus placing this district in a most advantageous position for its supply of lumber. In addition to this there are extensive forests on the northern side, which will yield large quantities of lumber. Coal was found last summer in the vicinity of Prince Albert, but as yet its extent is unknown. If found in quantity this will guarantee the surrounding country cheap fuel. It may be that it will be found in other parts of the adjacent country. The soil in the district from its west boundary as far east as range 15 west of the 2nd meridian is to my knowledge nearly all good loamy black clay; and I know I am within the mark when I say, there is as small a percentage of waste land in this part of the district as in any other similar area in any part of the Territories. The easterly part of the district is pretty well wooded, but there appears to be some fine prairie openings in it. Hay lands are numerous in the vicinity of Carrot River and Melfort Creek, and cattle can be raised without much trouble. It is not pretended that cattle can be raised as cheaply here as in the grazing lands proper of the more westerly parts of the Territories, where they can graze out the whole year, for here they have to be sheltered and fed during the winter, but even so with the advantage of much hay, both on the prairie parts and in the woods surrounding it, and its immense advantage of proximity to sea board if the Hudson Bay navigation scheme is developed, I think cattle raising here will pay just as well as on the grazing land further west. There are vast feed grounds in the Birch and Pasquia Hills where wild peas and vetches grow luxuriantly. On these cattle can feed until quite late. Mr. Reginald Beatty has sometimes allowed his young stock to remain out in these hills until December.

A small part of the district on the head of Carrot river has been settled for 12 or 14 years, and crops have been good. Mr. R. Beatty has been farming on Melfort Creek for nine years, and has always been successful. The quantity and quality in both places would compare well with the best. Last summer there was quite an influx of settlers in the Melfort Creek valley from Dakota and other parts of the United States, also some from the eastern provinces and the old country. All seem to be satisfied with their venture and are hopeful for the future. To sum up I would say there is a very large percentage of this district which offers as good inducements for mixed farming and cattle raising as any other part of the North-West.