

they were prepared to pay the rent; and all this without apparent motive, except the fiendish one of indulging a freak of callous-hearted Irish landlordism, or the no less unworthy design of securing the benefit of the deceased clergyman's improvements for nothing. The other side of the story, except that the figures stated below may not be precisely exact, is this: The Rev. Mr. Bell leased from the Baillieborough estate a small farm at £2 10s. per acre for a period of twenty years, or during his (Mr. Bell's) life. About the time of the general depression in the famine years—in 1845 or '46—the generous landlord allowed an abatement on the annual rent charge of fifteen shillings per acre, and Mr. Bell went on and prospered and improved his farm by the drainage of some marsh lands. He outlived the twenty years named in his lease, which, therefore, terminated only at his own death. But the Rev. Mr. Bell made a will and actually bequeathed the farm to one of his sisters, or in case of her death to her heirs! He, in fact, devised the usufruct of property to which, neither in law nor equity, neither by contract nor implication, he had the shadow of a claim, and directed its enjoyment through three generations, just as if he had been the feuar of the property, and as if the landlord had no rights over it but to receive the annual fees. The clergyman was practically nullifying Sir John Young's title, and it is not to be wondered at that his factor took legal steps to reassert it. But as the threatened "eviction" was accompanied with an offer of an annual pension of £5 for life, together with the homestead and an acre of land, rent free, even the very appearance of hardship was taken away from the transaction, the consummation of which had been delayed for three months, by mutual consent of the parties in Ireland, until Sir John Young might be personally consulted about its final settlement. When such cases are converted into acts of oppression, it must be evident that Irish landlords are not without their difficulties.

Sir John's viceregal residence, Rideau Hall, near the junction of the Rideau and the Ottawa rivers, in that pleasantly situated suburb of the Capital, the village of New Edinburgh, is the scene, especially during the sittings of Parliament, of frequent happy reunions, in which Sir John and Lady Young are conspicuously distinguished for their happy suavity of manner and generous Irish hospitality.

THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORY.

THE MORE FERTILE REGIONS—(Continued.)

No. 5.—THE COUNTRIES BORDERING ON LAKES MANITOBA AND WINNIPEGOOS, &c.

By the Rev. F. N. McD. Dawson, Ottawa.

The country around the Selkirk settlement at Red River is so well known that when the inhabitants of that region, or the passing traveller speak of its rich and fertile soil, their statements remain unquestioned. But when it is affirmed that there are equally fertile lands at a distance from the favoured colony, remote from the banks and valleys of the great rivers, or extending along the tributaries of these rivers, where they dwindle into streams, comparatively insignificant, the powers of doubt, at all times so watchful, are called into action, and we enquire on what authority things so wonderful, and at first view, incredible, are related. It will not now, however, be considered that we hold an extravagant position when we claim to have shewn (See No. 4.) that on the Upper Assiniboine, a river, the whole course of which is about 600 miles, there are extensive countries as fertile and more beautiful than the rich alluvial plains on the same important stream at its junction with the Red River of the north. What was shewn as regards the upper regions of the Assiniboine on the authority of distinguished travellers and parties of accredited explorers, who have made a particular examination of such vast tracts of the North-West Territory, on the part of the Imperial and Canadian Governments, it will now be our object to set forth as characterizing, in an eminent degree, the extensive region which is separated from the fertile valley of the Saskatchewan on the north by the Pasquia, or Wapasquaow range of hills and other heights, from which flow some of the tributaries of this great river, which extends westwards as far as the head waters of Red Deer river, Swan river, Rolling-in river, the Dutch mountains, and Riding mountains: which may be said to terminate towards the south at the heights from which flow the tributaries of the Lower Assiniboine, and which has for its eastern boundary the banks of Lake Winnipeg along the whole length of this magnificent lake—280 miles. A chain of beautiful lakes traverses this region from its northern limit at the heights of the Saskatchewan in a south-easterly direction almost as far as the valley of the Assiniboine. These lakes are of great extent. If they were only one lake they would form as extensive a sheet of water as Lake Winnipeg itself. The largest of them are Winnipegosis, Manitoba, or Petawinipeg, and Lake Dauphin. They are fed by innumerable streams, the principal of which have just been mentioned—Swan river, Red Deer river, &c., which flow from the west, but have their sources a great way to the east of the

Rocky mountain range, even a considerable distance eastward from the south branch of the Saskatchewan.

The portions of this country which are situated between Lake Winnipeg and the lakes of the interior are almost entirely level. There are no eminences that can be called hills, and everywhere there are beautiful woods, with here and there a fine clear lake to vary the scene. Many parts of the country around these lesser lakes are, according to the reports of recent explorers, densely wooded, and there are indications that they have often been a favourite resort of the wild animals of the forest and prairie, as well as of the nomad aboriginal tribes.

The breadth of this region is no less than 100 miles at the points where it is widest, between Lake Winnipeg and Lakes Winnipegosis and Manitoba. Its entire length may be set down at 250 miles. The soil is alluvial and so high in many places, above the surface of the neighbouring waters, as to be quite beyond the reach of inundations. There can be no doubt as to its fertility, when it is considered that the rock, which underlies it, is limestone, and that there is everywhere a luxuriant growth of all kinds of wood.

Along the course of the Little Saskatchewan, the river by which the waters of Lakes Dauphin, Manitoba, and Winnipegosis are conveyed to Lake Winnipeg, the ground is lower, more marshy, and more apt to be flooded. But the valley of this river forms only a small portion of the country of which we are endeavouring to give an idea. For a circuit of 50 miles round the south end of Lake Manitoba, the soil is spoken of by the settlers there as being exceedingly rich, they pronounce it even superior to the fine alluvial lands of Red River. This tract is richly wooded. But there are also extensive meadows or prairie lands.

The White Mud river, about 80 miles in length, belongs to this region. It has its sources in the southern skirts of the Riding mountains, and flows in an easterly direction to the south end of Lake Manitoba. It passes through a very beautiful and fertile country, consisting chiefly of open prairie lands, thickly interspersed with woods. The soil is a rich sandy loam. This portion of the Territory which bears so favourable a description, extends southwards all the way to the Sand hills on the Assiniboine, and eastwards as far as Red River.

Passing to the north-eastern shore of the same lake, we find a low, flat country, the surface of which presents very little variety. Here, boulders of granite are strewn among the water-worn fragments of limestone, which appears to be the prevailing rock of the locality. The Canadian exploring expedition of 1858 reported a dense growth of wood on a high range of land pretty close to the north-eastern shore of this lake. Between this ridge and the mainland there is an open marsh, which varies from half a mile to two miles in width. It extends along the whole coast, and is broken only here and there by points of higher land which run down to the lake. When the Expedition passed, "the marsh was covered with withered bulrushes and long grass, which, although of last year's growth, still evinced the rankness of the vegetation peculiar to this region. The stems of some of the bulrushes, on being measured, were found to be an inch and three quarters in diameter. From the marsh, the mainland—a rich alluvial soil—gradually rises to a moderate elevation, and is not subject to be inundated."

To the west of the inland lakes, there is the pleasing variety of hill and dale. Some of the hills, such, for instance, as the "Riding Mountains," rise to the height of one thousand feet above the surface of Lake Manitoba, about due west from the centre of which they are situated, and seventeen hundred feet above the level of the sea. Between these hills and the lake, there is all the delightful variety of prairie and woodland, with smaller lakes at intervals, and numerous streams. Of these streams, the principal are Red Deer River and Swan River. At the points where these rivers discharge their waters into Lake Winnipegosis, and, indeed, along the whole western shore of this lake, the land is reported by explorers as remarkably fertile, and of sufficient elevation to be quite beyond the reach of inundations. Between the two rivers just named, a level and well-wooded country extends as far as the base of the Porcupine hills. The country around Swan Lake, about six miles from the mouth of the river of this name, is described as highly interesting. The lake itself is dotted with islands. The country extends northward from this lake—an unbroken and finely wooded level, all the way to the Porcupine range, whilst towards the south no height or undulation intercepts the view of the Duck Mountain, the blue crest of which is seen towering above the horizon. The river was explored as far as twenty miles from the lake, near which its banks are low; although rising, gradually, they attain the height of one hundred feet above the river. At this point, the river is impeded considerably by granite boulders and fragments of limestone, which is the prevailing rock of the district. The landships that have occurred in many places where the banks are high reveal the nature of the soil, "which is alluvial," say the explorers, "and of great depth, resting upon drift clay or shale of a bituminous appearance." Ten miles farther, the stream follows a rather tortuous course in "a fine valley." The banks here rise to the height of eighty or one hundred feet. Beyond them, in a northerly direction, towards Porcupine Hill, extends an almost level plain from fifteen to twenty miles, and the same distance, southward, as far as the table land of Duck Mountain. This plain is bounded

on the south-west by Thunder Mountain. It presents, say the explorers of 1858, "one of the finest countries which they had ever seen in a state of nature. The prospect is bounded by the hills just named, while, in the plain, alternate wood and prairie present an appearance more pleasing than if either entirely prevailed. On the 10th of June, the time at which we passed, the trees were in full foliage, and the prairie openings showed a vast expanse of green sward." Travelling among the hills they met with wide valleys which bear the same description. The expedition passed from the country which we are endeavouring to describe by a tributary of Swan River. This stream also flows in "a beautiful valley, with alternate slopes of woodland and prairie."

Red Deer River, although it traverses a more northerly portion of the Winnipegosis country, is no less famed for the fertility of the land which it irrigates. The first and most renowned of travellers in the North-West—Sir Alexander McKenzie—bears witness, as many have done since his time, to the fact that the maple tree grows to perfection. No better proof can be required of the excellence of the climate and the capabilities of the soil. This stream, like Swan River, has a course of about two hundred miles.

On Dauphin River, no inconsiderable stream, for it is forty yards broad and five feet deep, in its shallowest parts, the lands are admirably productive. The banks are of a strong, gray clay, covered with black mould. Oak, elm, and poplar grow luxuriantly; and, it is stated on the authority of the Canadian expedition of 1858, that there are Indians settled at several places on this river, who raise potatoes, Indian corn and melons.

In drawing this paper, now becoming tediously long, to a conclusion, it will not be out of place to make some brief allusion to the productions of a country so beautiful, so well irrigated, and so fertile as the regions bordering on Lakes Winnipegosis and Manitoba. From what has just been stated in regard to the valley of Dauphin River, it will not be hard to believe that in addition to the melon, which requires no slight degree of summer heat and unbroken sunshine, the most valuable kinds of grain can easily be cultivated. At Manitoba and Partridge Crop, as well as at Lake Dauphin, there are settlements of Indians and people of mixed origin, who cultivate *Wheat* and *Indian Corn*, as well as many other kinds of crops. *Wheat*, *Indian Corn*, *Melons*, no less than all the cereal and vegetable crops, may be set down among the productions of the country. But the negligence of the sparse settlers in regard to these precious fruits of the soil, only proves the abundance of other sources of subsistence. They give but comparatively little attention to husbandry, the noblest industrial pursuit of civilized man, and betake themselves to the more congenial occupations of hunting and fishing. And this is highly remunerative employment. Ducks, geese, and aquatic birds of all kinds frequent the waters of this lake country; whilst the lakes and rivers swarm with fish of every description: at rich fishing grounds, not more distant than the Grand Rapids of the Saskatchewan, no fewer than fifteen families go to fish every year for sturgeon. The Buffalo herds, so numerous, are diminishing, disappearing rapidly. But it is not to be doubted that domestic cattle—oxen, sheep, horses, &c., may be easily reared on the rich meadow lands, where wild animals were formerly sustained in such numbers. When colonization is fairly commenced, the facilities for maintaining such valuable farm stock will necessarily increase, in a country where all kinds of agricultural produce can be so easily raised. According to the descriptions of the country to which reference has been made in this paper, there is no want of wood for building and other necessary purposes. It grows luxuriantly throughout the whole of this lake country. It thrives on the hill-tops, even as high as the summit plateau of Duck Mountain. Coal is found in this mountain group as well as in the Porcupine hills. The passing explorer has not yet, however, been able to say with certainty, whether it can be found in sufficient quantity to become available. Be this as it may, it is quite abundant in the neighbouring countries of the Assiniboine and its tributaries. Meanwhile, as far as fuel is concerned, the oak, the elm and the maple of the land may well supply its place. Lest anything should be omitted that is calculated to give an idea of the many productions of the land, it may be mentioned that there are mineral springs and medicinal waters. Salt is found in several places along the western shores of Lake Winnipegosis and Swan River. The salt springs are utilized by the Hudson's Bay Company, who manufacture salt for their own use. The Red River settlement is also supplied with salt from the same source, a person of the name of Monkman having established works by means of which he provides salt for the whole population.

The explorers of 1858 mention having been serenaded at early dawn as they passed through the land, by innumerable singing birds. The woods, they state, were positively alive with them. This was no new practice. The explorer of an earlier day, Sir Alexander McKenzie, alludes to the same pleasing circumstance. He was often cheered in his journeyings through the wilderness, by the merry tones of the melodious songsters of the North-Western forests.

The Earl of Breadalbane has determined to expend a large sum on the improvement of his estates in Perthshire and Argyle. His lordship has also subscribed £20,000 to the Calder and Oban Railway.