

known as the "Fertile Belt" and that the southern part about which so little was said, was set down, or assumed, to be arid and of slight value; an opinion still generally prevalent and mainly fostered by writers whose views have been based on a misinterpretation of Capt. Palliser's remarks.

The survey of the International Boundary and the establishment of the Mounted Police Force in 1874, tended in some degree to dispel the cloud which hung over the south. Their frequent journeys have done much since then in the same direction, yet in the minds of the general public, and even of many others who should be better informed, the old prejudice, in a measure, exists against it.

In this position of the question the past only repeated itself. How many are the instances of wealth unknown having passed for centuries under the eye of the dwellers on the spot unappreciated and untouched?

In our day the growth of the Dominion, demanding a through communication from east to west, and the exigencies of the overpopulated countries of the old world, have brought it about, that we should be the means of enlightening the world as to the extent of the resources of the "Great North-West," and in so doing, possibly of acting as special agents, fulfilling the beneficent intentions of the all-wise Creator.

Explorers have traversed its length, and settlers have here and there dotted the new land and the reports of one and the other only stimulate us to further research.

Amongst those sent out to explore, I was first commissioned by Mr. Fleming, in 1872, to examine the flora of the prairies between Winnipeg and Edmonton. The same year I was despatched in company with Mr. Charles Horetzki to explore the Peace River and examine the country on its banks. The results were the discovery of the low passes through the Rocky Mountains and of an extensive tract of fertile country, since known as the Peace River District.

In 1875, I accompanied Mr. Selwyn, Director of the Geological Survey, in the capacity of botanist, to British Columbia and from thence by the Peace River Pass to the east of the Rocky Mountains. Circumstances compelled me to descend the Peace River from the Rocky Mountains to Lake Arthabaska and I was thus enabled to see the country as far north as lat. 59°. Turning eastward at this point a journey of 1,200 miles brought me to Winnipeg.