

Stinking River contains water at all seasons, clear and good except at a few points where salt springs affect it for short distances; good water can, however, be had anywhere by digging to a depth of a dozen or twenty feet.

Both banks of the river are fringed with oak and poplar of good size, in sufficient quantities for settlement use, which increase in size and density as the river is ascended.

The prairie, on either side, consists of a black loam, easily cultivated and of sufficient undulation from the numerous gullies leading to the river to be well drained, an important point towards early cultivation and quick growth. North of the river is an unlimited supply of marsh hay, the spontaneous growth of the marsh which extends to the southeast over parts of two Townships.

BOYNE RIVER SETTLEMENT.

The River Boyne takes its rise in the Pembina Mountains, and is about 50 miles long, flowing in a north easterly direction until it loses itself in the great marsh, mentioned before as extending to the vicinity of the Stinking River Settlement. Its banks are, for the greater part, lined with a fringe of heavy oak timber, to the depth of from a quarter to half a mile, till towards the mountain it extends into a forest of a number of miles wide; on the edge of the marsh, however, poplar is the principal timber met with.

The present occupants point with pride to the substantial character of their improvements, their houses being well built and commodious. Some of the largest enclosures in the Province are to be met with in this settlement, it being no unusual thing to see a field of 100 acres, of 60 acres, and 50 acres respectively, used for pasturage, the trouble of fencing being amply repaid by the certainty of always finding the cattle when wanted. The majority of the settlers here are Canadians, and the land is taken up for a distance of five miles east and west; beyond that, however, there is an abundance of land equally good, embracing the richest prairie land, with wood, water and hay.

The natural advantages of the Boyne district for the raising of cattle, with its abundant supply of water, fodder and shelter, has attracted the attention of the Messrs. Grant, of Sturgeon Creek, and Campbell Brothers from Ontario, both of whom have considerable droves of cattle fattening on the Prairie. The unlimited supply of acorns which strew the ground in the oak-woods, would suffice to feed a large herd of swine.

In the Boyne River settlement there are about 30 families.

VICTORIA.

This settlement commences about three miles north of Stony Mountain, but the latter term would not, in any other than a level country, be so applied. It is a ridge some 70 or 100 feet above the surrounding level, of about three miles in length and from a quarter to half a mile in width. The eastern side is a gentle slope, but the western is broken, some portions of it being precipitous. It is covered with a fine growth of poplar. The ridge is composed mostly of Limestone rocks, which, where exposed to view, appear to run in layers of from a foot to twenty inches in thickness. No better building stone can possibly be found, and the supply is practically inexhaustible.