

increasing polygamy, which has always been an institution among the Saulteaux. The ambition of every male Indian now is to multiply his offspring in order to draw the largest possible sum at the Treaty payments. The effect will, ultimately, be a large amount of destitution, for the head man of the family will spend all he can get on whiskey and gambling—a common Saulteaux vice—and leave his squaws and papooses to their own resources.

Nearly all the lakes in the territory abound with fish—principally sturgeon, pickerel, and whitefish. The former in some localities—as on Shoal Lake—are of enormous size, so that the Indians fear to hook or spear them from their canoes. The smaller sturgeon are in great request and are much more delicate in flesh than those found in the lower lakes or the St. Lawrence. The whitefish are also highly esteemed, and large quantities find their way during the season to the Winnipeg markets. Trout are found in some localities, but a great obstacle to their multiplication is the voracious Jack which abounds in these waters and grows to a large size. As the great West opens up there will be a prospect of indefinite extension for the fisheries within the territory, and, under proper regulations, they will be a productive source of wealth.

Everything points to the head waters of the Lake of the Woods as the future watering place of the American and Canadian North-West. Already some of the islands in the neighbourhood of Rat Portage have been surveyed by wealthy Winnipegers, anxious to construct summer residences thereon, and a project is now on foot for the building of a large marine hotel, for the accommodation of visitors during the summer season. With pure water, bracing air, gorgeous scenery and unequalled opportunities for bathing, boating, fishing and other amusements, there seems no reason to doubt that the success of Rat Portage as a watering place is assured. The surrounding eminences over-looking the lake form natural amphitheatres, specially adapted for villa residences; and a carriage drive could be easily made by bridging a narrow strait, across the neighbouring Coney Island, where there is a long stretch of sandy beach unequalled for bathing purposes. At present, the principal drawbacks are the cost of labour and the high price of all the necessaries of life, which have retarded in a great measure the erection of all but temporary buildings. The want of recognized municipal and judicial organizations, and the uncertainty of land tenure, have also proved prejudicial; yet large prices have been and are being paid for lots in and around the village in anticipation of a rise when the boundary question shall have been settled. The illicit liquor traffic, so long as it lasts, must also injuriously affect legitimate building enterprise and permanent settlement. The application of a stringent liquor license law like that of Ontario, would do much to inspire confidence in the minds of investors and to promote the well-being of the whole community.

The position of Manitoba in the territory is, at once, anomalous and unsatisfactory to all the well disposed inhabitants, inasmuch as it has been marked from the first by the timidity and vacillation always attendant upon insecurity. It has been made clear that the Manitoba Government doubted its authority to act, even after it had obtained a petition from the inhabitants asking for its interposition. It has studiously refrained from attempting to exercise jurisdiction at every point except Rat Portage;—even at Keewatin, three miles nearer to its own undeveloped territory, east of Selkirk. It has not yet attempted to include the "County of Varennes" as a Manitoba constituency for