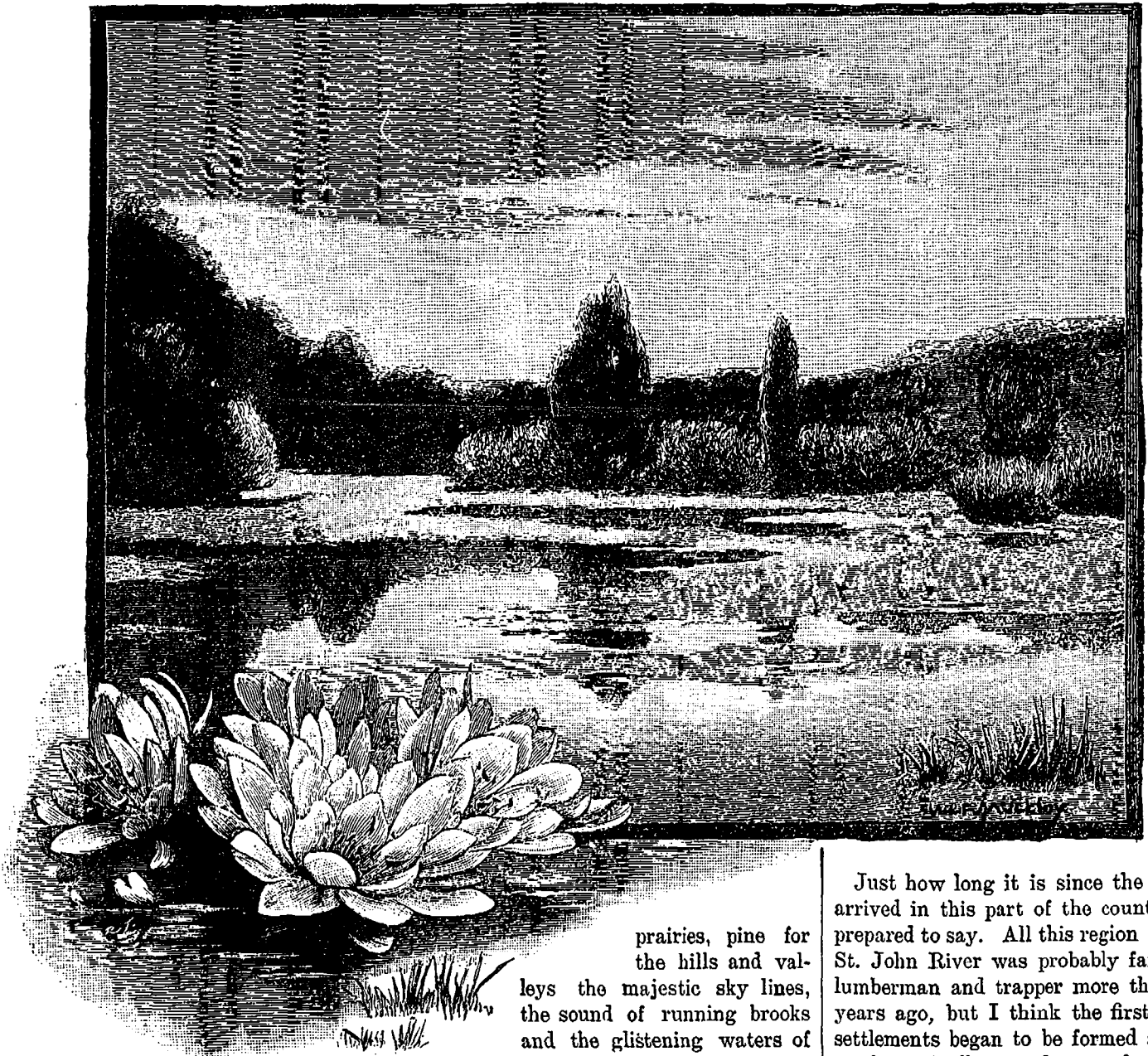


from the north, may be traced for several miles; crossing it in the mid-distance are the lattice girders of the bridge which here carries the C. P. Railway over to the east bank, using another mid-stream island as a stepping stone. Opposite to us the town itself is seen in one of its most picturesque aspects, though Woodstock is a pretty place from almost every point of view. Beyond and back of the town the rolling upland stretches away, gradually ascending toward the horizon.

In this upper part of its course the St. John River flows between high banks in a narrow valley which in places partakes almost more of the nature of a canyon than a valley. Since the ice age the river has cut its way down

There is one high hill in particular about half way on the road from Woodstock to Houlton, from which a panorama greets the eye such as it would be difficult to surpass in any country. Undulating hills and valleys alternate with wide stretching fertile plains; cultivated fields are everywhere diversified by patches of woodland; farm houses glisten white among the deep green foliage of shade trees, and nowhere has the country been wholly denuded of its splendid growth of hardwood, principally birch, beech and maple, which half a century ago completely covered almost the whole of it in forest primeval. No wonder that those who part from such scenes as these in the hope of acquiring wealth more rapidly on the western

refers rather to the superior climatic conditions and levelness of the latter country than to any superiority in natural fertility of soil. This, according to one of our best authorities, Mr. Edward Jack, C.E. of the Provincial Crown Land Survey, is only a small portion of an extensive belt, 70 to 100 miles wide, of fertile country, the great bulk of it still an unbroken forest, stretching right across the northern part of this province; but the country on the east side of the river is more broken and hilly or even mountainous, and I doubt whether the land is as good, except here and there in limited areas, as is that in the west side of the river. At all events the latter seem to have been preferred by the early settlers.



through a depth of one or two hundred feet of builder clay, leaving in successive flats and terraces, now far above high water level, well defined indications of where the banks and bed of the river at different times existed in succeeding bygone ages. Hence those who follow the usual course of travel by road or rail along the river bank shut in on either side by banks still higher, seeing nothing beyond, can form no conception of the character and extent of fertile country through which they are passing. It is only from one of the many hill tops such as this one opposite Woodstock or another at Florenceville that any adequate idea can be obtained of the beauty and fertility of this section of country.

prairies, pine for the hills and valleys the majestic sky lines, the sound of running brooks and the glistening waters of their native province, until at last many of them return acknowledging that notwithstanding such advantages as the "Great West," may possess, there are after all few countries better to live in than New Brunswick.

In Carleton Co., N.B., on the west side of the St. John River and lying between it and the United States boundary, is a strip of country about fifty miles long with a breadth varying from about twelve miles at its southern extremity to only two or three miles at the northern limit of the county, which for agricultural purposes can hardly be surpassed in any portion of the Dominion. It will at least compare favorably with any district I know of in the older provinces, with the exception of the Western Ontario peninsular and this exception

Just how long it is since the first settlers arrived in this part of the country I am not prepared to say. All this region of the Upper St. John River was probably familiar to the lumberman and trapper more than a hundred years ago, but I think the first agricultural settlements began to be formed about Woodstock, gradually extending northward along the river front, during the early years of the present century. At Florenceville, twenty five miles north of Woodstock, the first clearing was made, I am told, about seventy years ago. From that time forward during the second quarter of the century, although every acre of land had to be reclaimed from an impenetrable forest of hardwood timber, the country was rapidly settled, land contiguous to the river being first taken up and the clearings gradually pushed backward on the west side of the river, toward Uncle Sam's domain until now, I believe the whole of this area is occupied, there being in the lower part of the country seven tiers of farms between the river and the United States boundary. In those days there were no