

Manitoba, about 120 miles from its mouth, where it discharges into Lake Winnipeg.

It is not within the limits of this Directory to enter into lengthy details of the resources and advantages of Manitoba to the Emigrant and Capitalist, as also of its climate, soil and agriculture. For such information of a reliable nature, we would recommend a careful perusal of Mr. Spence's excellent and complete pamphlet on Manitoba and the North-West, copyrighted. In giving a brief historical sketch of MANITOBA, we cannot do better than quote from an able article in *LOVELL'S GAZETTEER OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA*, with the kind permission of the Publisher of that valuable work.

"The name *Manitoba*, taken from a large lake, a part of which lies in the province, is a contraction, made by the old French Canadian *voyageurs*, of the Cree word, *Manito-waban*. *Manito* signifies *supernatural divine spirit*; and *waban* means a *strait*. As the waters of a strait in that lake are agitated in an unusual way, the Indians believed formerly there was therein something supernatural, a spirit that moved them, and so they called the lake *Manitowaban*.

The writer proceeds to say:

"This section of North America was first visited by the French. Chevalier de la Vérandrye built a fort at the mouth of the Assiniboine in 1731. The French continued to trade there alone for many years, but in 1767 the first English traders visited it, and soon several rival companies were in operation. These finally dwindled into the famous North West Company, which in its turn was absorbed by the Hudson's Bay Company, chartered by King Charles II. in 1670. The latter Company having sold a tract of land to the Hon. Thomas Douglas, Earl of Selkirk, on both sides of the Assiniboine and of the Red Rivers, his lordship planted there, in 1812, a colony known by the name of Selkirk Settlement, Red River Settlement, or also Assiniboia. In 1836 the Hudson's Bay Company repurchased from the heirs of Lord Selkirk the same tract of land ceded to his lordship in 1811, and continued to exercise authority over that portion of Rupert's Land by the appointment of the Governor and Council of Assiniboia, which, in course of time, especially after the settlers had declared independence of trade in 1849, formed a rather independent administration for the local affairs in the colony, the limits of which extended but fifty miles around Fort Garry. It is that colony that now forms the greatest part of the new province of Manitoba.

The Hudson's Bay Company never claimed any proprietary rights on the North West Territories proper. These Territories formerly included nothing but the lands east of the Rocky Mountains, watered by the rivers running towards the Arctic Sea. The Charter of the Company merely included Rupert's Land, *i. e.*, the lands watered by the tributaries of Hudson's Bay. These two immense portions of country outside of the province of Manitoba are now known by the same name of North West Territories.

In March, 1869, the Hudson's Bay Company agreed to hand to the Imperial Government their territorial rights and governing responsibilities, and on the 16th of July, 1870, England handed the whole to the Canadian Government. It was during that period that the Red River troubles took place. The transactions between England and Canada, as well as the Hudson's Bay Company, having been made without consulting and even paying any attention to the Government and people of Assiniboia, a deep feeling of uneasiness arose, and the Canadian authorities, coming into the country before the transfer, met resistance. In the meantime a provisional government was formed by the settlers to secure their rights, and come to an agreement with the Dominion of Canada; delegates were sent to Ottawa for that purpose, and treated with the proper authorities. England urged the Ottawa Government to satisfy the people of Red River. Then the Bill of Manitoba and other guarantees were agreed to, and thereby the entry of Manitoba into the Confederation was effected.

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