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The following Sketch is reproduced in part from "Robertson's  
Political Guide of Manitoba."

WALTER R. NURSEY

Is the son of the late Rev. Peregrine Fairfax Nursey, of Burlingham, and Rector of Crostwick, Norfolk, England, and was educated for the East Indian Civil Service, but crossed to Canada and engaged in agriculture. Later he entered the service of the Bank of Upper Canada, Toronto, and during the days of its liquidation was in the office of the Trustees. At the time of the Fenian Raid at Niagara in 1866 he served as a volunteer in the Queen's Own Rifles (Imperial Medal and Clasp.) In 1870 he entered the Provincial Auditor's Office of Ontario, under the Honourable John Sandfield McDonald's Government, during which period he was also prominent as an oarsman and football player. Resigned in 1874 for the more exciting avocation of a *coureur des bois*, in the Lac la Pluie district of old Prince Rupert's Land, and was one of the pioneers at Fort Francis on the Rainy River. Was for a short time in the Hudson Bay Co.'s service, and carried the winter overland mail—the "Northern Packet"—by dog-train through the wilderness which extends from Lake Superior to York Factory. Subsequently became a "free-fur-trader." He was Chief Commissary for the surveyors allotting the Saulteaux Indian reservations on Lake of the Woods; was employed as paymaster to the Chippeway bands in the Lac la Pluie region, and spent months in the remote interior cruising for pine and exploring for mineral, and, as a Stipendiary Magistrate with a roving commission, hunted whiskey smugglers in the prohibited territory. He was Secretary to the Indian Commissioners at the time of the ratification of treaties with the Otchipwe and Cree tribes, and was engaged by the Government to superintend the transport of Indian supplies by lake and river to the far West. In the winter of 1876, when the outbreak of smallpox ravaged the Indians on Lake Winnipeg, and in the Saskatchewan country, he was appointed, by the Government of the Dominion of Canada, Chief Health Officer and Fur Inspector for the infected district of Keewaytin, the then Debatable Land—and maintained so vigilant a sanitary *cordon*—though at the loss of several of his party through exposure and privation, during a winter of unprecedented severity—that further spread of the scourge was checked. In 1878 he published the *Manitoba Telegraph*, followed by the *Herald*, *Manitoba Merchant*, *Quiz*, *Manitoba Celebrities*, etc. This same year he was appointed first Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Manitoba, and the following year was gazetted Provincial Auditor, and remained in office until 1889. He was the first Justice of the Peace for Keewaytin, a Commissioner in B. R., a Liquor License Commissioner for Manitoba, and an Issuer of Marriage Licenses. He travelled extensively in the British and United States "North-West," and with canoe and snow-shoe, pack-horse and dog-train, exploited the country with rod and rifle from Hudson's Bay to Alaska. In 1886 he was appointed Special Commissioner for the Province of Manitoba to the Indian and Colonial Exhibition at Kensington, London, England, his report at the time attracting high official attention. He holds a Military School Certificate, was Postmaster-General to the North-West Field Force, under General Sir Fred Middleton, at the time of the Indian outbreak and Riel affair in 1885, when, as a volunteer and Paymaster of the Winnipeg Field Battery, and a transport officer, he participated in the fights at Fish Creek and Batoche, and after the burning of Fort Pitt and massacre at Frog Lake, took part in the pursuit and capture of Big Bear (Imperial Medal and Clasp). In 1889 he accompanied Lord Stanley, Governor-General of Canada, across the continent as "special correspondent." He has been a frequent contributor to English and American sporting journals and other periodicals, and written several books of history, travel and romance, and other publications of a statistical and trade character.

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