

sand souls, whose numbers are increasing every summer. The capital, Winnipeg, on the Red River, has already a settled population of over twenty thousand persons, and seems destined, by its natural position, and relation to the country away beyond, to become the Chicago of the Canadian North-west. It must be the emporium of the yearly increasing trade of a country whose natural resources will find their full development with the completion of the Pacific Railway, and its auxiliary lines, tapping the most fertile sections of the territory. Like all new towns in the West, Winnipeg has been hurriedly run up,—though, as its position is now assured, a better class of buildings is yearly erected, and the streets begin to present that substantial appearance which is the best evidence of its prosperity, and of the confidence which its citizens have in its future career. Speculation in land is the favourite employment of all classes of the citizens. Even the hotel barber forgets to extol the merits of his “tonics” and “invigorators,” and suavely directs your attention to the ticket which shows that he, too, has “lots for sale.” A great deal of land has changed hands during the past two years, and sharp speculators have realised handsome sums. Numerous companies have received charters for colonisation on a very extensive scale—the Duke of Manchester, Lord Elphinstone, Mr. Tennant, and other capitalists having already made large investments in the territory. So far the history of colonisation in the North-west is that of the Western States. For a century people from the New England and the older States have been moving westward and occupying the new territories. In this way, Illinois, Iowa, and all the great States of the North-west have been settled by the class of

pioneers best suited to a new country. It will be the same thing in the Canadian North-west. Farmers from Ontario, chiefly from the most thickly populated districts, have been pouring into the province of Manitoba and the adjacent territory, and preparing the way, as it were, for the emigrant from Europe. By the time there is a large influx of Old World population, there will also be found, scattered all over the North-west, little settlements of industrious farmers from the older provinces, whose experience and knowledge will be invaluable, and, in fact, absolutely necessary, to the European settler, to whom everything will be at first very strange in his new home. Already throughout that vast region towns and villages are being “located” along the line of railway, and here and there patches of cultivated ground tell of the rapid march of the advance-guard of that army of pioneers already on their way to take possession of the territory. The cabins of these settlers—sentinels, as it were, of civilisation in the wilderness—are but humble homes; their inmates must, for years to come, lead lives of privation. But we all know that the history of Western colonisation is ever the same; that difficulties are eventually overcome—that the rude cabins are, sooner or later, turned into large and comfortable dwellings, and the little clearings lost in wide stretches of fields of ripening grain.

I have briefly reviewed the most noteworthy features of the material development of Canada, so rich in territory, and all those natural resources which create wealth and attract population. The foundations of her prosperity rest on a sound system of popular education, and on those principles of government which, experience has shown,

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