

*Lake Winnipeg*, fifty miles from the Capital, is 264 miles long, and averaging 35 miles wide, is the common reservoir of these confluent streams, discharging its waters into Hudson's Bay.

*Lakes Manitoba and Winnipegosis* are connected with *Lake Winnipeg*, on the west by navigable channels, and are two other large bodies of water, being together as long as *Lake Winnipeg*, with about half its breadth. The water area of these Lakes will equal that of Ontario and Erie combined.

In the present sparsely settled state of the country, the pioneers of immigration will have great advantages in being able to appropriate the best lands and most eligible situations for wood and water; although it may be here remarked, that what in many parts is now a treeless prairie, may, in a few years, be covered with timber; as soon as civilization checks the annual scourge of prairie fires, wherever these fires are arrested, the land is soon covered by a dense growth of timber, generally poplar.

From the tendency of population being governed primarily by the direction of the navigable waters, so will the pioneer immigrant lay the foundation of thriving towns along their great extent to the foot of the Rocky Mountains.

In comparing the advantages and resources of this great Northwest of the Dominion of Canada with the West and Northwest of the United States, we must bear in mind, that the rate of area absorbed by settlement in ten years in the Western States of America, was 170,955 square miles, and continually increasing; and that from the reports of explorations, made under the auspices of the United States Government, of the region between the Mississippi and the Rocky Mountains, the startling facts are revealed, "that the *western progress* of its population has nearly *reached the extreme western limit* of the areas available for settlement; and that the whole space west of the ninety-eighth parallel, embracing one-half of the entire surface of the United States, *is an arid and desolate waste*, with the exception of a narrow belt of rich land along the Pacific coast."

That rich but narrow belt referred to has already been blocked out with the prosperous States of California and Oregon, with a population of over 1,200,000. This momentous fact was first announced by Professor Henry of the Smithsonian Institute, from whom we quote: "The whole space to the west between the 98th meridian and the Rocky Mountains is a barren waste, over which the eye may roam to the extent of the visible horizon, with scarcely an object to break the monotony. The country may also be considered in comparison with other portions of the United States, a wilderness unfitted for the use of the husbandman, although in some of the mountains, as at Salt Lake, by means of irrigation a precarious supply of food may be obtained." It is not necessary to quote the detailed description of this American Sahara, the concluding words of Professor Henry are more to our purpose.

He says: "We have stated that the entire region west of the 98th degree of West longitude, with the exception of a small portion of