

spicuously near to the station. From this town a branch line strikes off the main line in a north-westerly direction for some two hundred miles to Saltcoats, where so many families of the crofter class from the Hebrides acquired settlements a few years ago. Special facilities were afforded them by public subscriptions, augmented by the Imperial Parliament. They have no reason to regret their choice, and, from all information received, they appear to be quite content with their lot and doing well. The country, rendered accessible by this new railway branch, is extremely fertile, and intending settlers would do well to inspect it before proceeding farther west.

After leaving Portage-la-Prairie the country is well settled, and busy little towns with grain elevators are passed in pretty close succession till we arrive at

Brandon.

This town has nearly 6000 inhabitants, is growing by leaps and bounds, and is second in importance only to Winnipeg. It is the distributing market centre of an extensive and well-cultivated district, as may be seen from the number of grain elevators, flour and saw mills. The town is beautifully situated on high ground, and, though only a few years old, can boast of splendid streets, beautiful buildings, and all the other institutions that are necessary to the development of a large, commercial, and prosperous city, such as it promises to be in the near future. The Experimental Farm is in the vicinity of Brandon. The success that attended many of the settlers in the neighbourhood of the town is almost incredible. Let me illustrate this by one example—Some eight or ten years ago a young man started life as a farm labourer; his savings did not amount to much, but in a couple of years the modest sum at his disposal was laid out in securing for himself a half section, or 320 acres of land. Fortune smiled upon his efforts, and he went on adding more land to that originally acquired, till at the end of six years he had no less than 2000 acres under cultivation; while the property increased in value to over £8000. Surely this instance should encourage farm labourers to go out and try their fortune. A branch line, from Brandon to the south-west, opens up a vast track of country,