

continually with drift, although the snow was not over eight inches deep on the plains; on reaching the Manitoba line, however, we found very little snow, and on arrival at Fort Garry on the 17th November, there was not enough snow to cover the ground. From the 18th to the 28th November there was no snow of any consequence in Manitoba, and on the 1st December leaving Fort Garry on our return we had beautiful weather, travelling by stage, on wheels, 140 miles. The further south we came the more snow we found, till on our arrival at St. Paul, it was fully a foot in depth. This confirmed the statement made by the people in Manitoba that they do not experience as much snow as falls in Minnesota and Dacotah. Apparently the further westward you travel in Manitoba, the less snow is met with, and the milder is the climate.

#### SIZE, GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF WINNIPEG, THE CAPITAL OF MANITOBA AND THE NORTH WEST.

A general desire being felt to know the exact increase of the population of Winnipeg during the last summer, much speculation has existed, based upon all kinds of random suppositions. Judging from the ordinary indications of trade and building, few towns can boast a more rapid growth. In the Fall of 1870 the population was 300, whilst in the Fall of 1871 it had increased to 700, and in the Fall of last year, a careful enumeration made showed a population of 1,467, thus giving an increase of nearly 800 during the past year. The number of houses erected during last building season were stores, dwellings and warehouses of one story high, thirty-four; of one and a half stories, thirty-three; of two stories, fifty-six, and of two and a half stories, one; making a total in all of 124 new buildings. In addition to this there are now under contract a brick hotel to contain 100 rooms, for Mr. A. M. Brown; the Canadian Pacific Hotel, with a frontage of 90 feet, and to contain 100 rooms; whilst numerous stores and warehouses together with private residences are being erected. There remains to be mentioned the Receiver General's Office, Custom House and Post Office to be erected by the Dominion Government, at an average cost of \$15,000 each.

With respect to wages, although varying according to circumstances and place, the average prices may be set down as follow: Carpenters, \$3.50 per day; bricklayers and masons, \$4.00 per day; painters \$3.50, and labourers \$2.50 per day. These rates of wages, though higher perhaps than elsewhere, are not the only advantage, for the sober and industrious may, out of the savings of one or two months, secure, by making their first payment, a lot and a home of their own.

The market rates, as far as we could ascertain them, where the supply is so irregular and uncertain, were: wheat, \$1.25 per bushel; oats, \$1.00 per bushel; barley, \$1.10 per bushel; potatoes, 62 cents; onions, \$2.00; carrots, 75 cents; turnips, 50 cents, and beets 50 cents per bushel. Hay was selling from \$7.00 to \$8.00 per ton; butter, 30 cents per lb; eggs, 30 cents per dozen; beef, 12½ cents per lb; lamb the same; veal, 20 cents; pork, 20 cents; and fresh fish about 5 cents per lb. Board ranges from \$5.00 to \$9.00 per week, though many young men save money by boarding themselves.

#### STINKING RIVER SETTLEMENT.

This settlement is best reached by way of Headingley and thence south over the Pembina trail which crosses the Stinking River, near the upper end of the settlement. The land on both sides of the river is nearly occupied through the extent of townships 8 and 9 in the second range. The settlers are for the most part from Central Canada.