

## Red River Expedition of 1870.

(WRITTEN FOR THE MANITOBA.)

BY AN OFFICER OF THE FORCE.

(Continued from April number.)

**T**AKING into consideration distance traversed, time engaged and labor performed, the route from Toronto to Fort Garry might be properly divided into four sections, namely, from Toronto to Port Arthur 670 miles, from Port Arthur to Shebandowan Lake 46 miles, from Shebandowan Lake to Fort Francis by route travelled 308 miles, from Fort Francis to Fort Garry by way of the Winnipeg River 380 miles, or a total distance from Toronto to Winnipeg 1,400 miles.

As before stated the sun was high up in the heavens when we launched our boats below the falls on Rainy River on its whirling, eddying, foaming waters. The banks of the river are high at this point, with gravelly brinks, and the bed lined with huge boulders, which no doubt gives the water this whirling, rotary motion. Sometimes for 200 yards or so the boats would glide along rapidly and then all of a sudden they would come to a standstill, and for some minutes it would require all the united exertions of the crew to extricate them from the whirlpool in which they found their boat.

Rainy River contains a very large volume of water and is about 300 yards wide. The current is so swift that at times rowing was considered unnecessary. We reached the rapids about 30 miles from Fort Francis, towards evening, and as certain preparations had to be made for the running of them, it was considered desirable to camp for the night.

The cooks set to work and in a short time had an excellent meal prepared of fresh fish, milk and new potatoes, with which we replenished our stock at Fort Francis. On the left bank or American side, part of the State of

Minnesota, no sign of cultivation or civilization could be observed, the land inland as far as the eyes could reach was an endless forest covered over with large elm, soft maple, poplar, and an odd pine tree extending down to the water's edge, but on the Canadian side all the way from Fort Francis there were some nice Indian houses, surrounded by clearances, varying from two to ten acres, on which were flourishing crops of corn, potatoes, wheat, oats and other cereals and vegetables. It being the middle of August these crops seemed to be farther advanced in maturity than the crops in Manitoba.

There are also some circular mounds of earth on the Canada side used as Indian houses and which seemed to be but recently inhabited. When the decaying logs which apparently supported the heavy clay roof gives way, and that the latter falls in filling up the deep excavation even with the surface and burying the contents, it would not be surprising if in a hundred years hence a farmer from Huron and Bruce digging his cellar would come across some Indian tomahawk, clay pipe or metal pot and would correspond with the Historical Society of Winnipeg when we would have the members of that body hastening to the scene with spade, shovel and pickaxe to unearth the relics of prehistoric times.

In all probability when the science of geology and the investigations of antiquated antiquarians are brought to bear the relics will be pronounced as belonging to a race which existed anterior to the time when Adam and Eve seated under their favorite shade trees first began to throw sheep's eyes at each other. Some will even go farther back and by the science of geology endeavor to prove that the race must have existed about the time when the angel mentioned in the epistle of Peter, with Napoleonic ambition aspired for universal empire and was punished by being cast out and compelled to take that ethereal