

begun land had risen in value to \$4.00 per acre and a short time afterwards to \$5.00 per acre; and it has been increasing in value very rapidly until at the present time some unimproved lands in good locations have sold as high as \$15.00 per acre.

When the speculator became interested in the district to the extent that the sale of lands and the placing of scrip had given him an opportunity (they being in closer touch with the powers that be than the pioneers and agriculturists of the district), the effect was seen in the evident effort of the railway company to push the railway line through with more vim, and in 1902 a surveyor was sent into the district to locate the townsite of Melfort on Section 7, Township 45, Range 18 west of the 2nd Meridian.

One of the peculiar features of this settlement, and one that has often been commented on, is that years ago it was said all the good land in the district was taken, and that it was only a narrow strip along the proposed line of the C.N.R.; but the settlement has been growing—widening, lengthening out in every direction—and is going still further. A belt of timber along the south of the district, on the Birch and Pasqua Hills, was said to bar further progress in that direction, but this has been penetrated by land seekers in many places, who brought glowing reports of still finer locations, with the result that surveyors were sent in who surveyed townships that are now settled with homesteaders where years ago it was thought no one would ever go; and these homesteaders boast that their locations are better than those taken by the first settlers. It was the same story of the north of the settlement—the limit of good open land had been reached; but it is only a few months ago that a party of Mennonite delegates from Manitoba closed a contract to purchase the odd-numbered sections in a block of land some of which is 30 miles north of the railway. And these delegates, who are accustomed to the West