

groundwork for the extension of township surveys at any point along the line of railway where they may be required, to facilitate the location of the land grant along the line of railway, to obtain a systematic knowledge of the resources of the country, and to furnish information as to geographic position and topography required for the accurate mapping of the North-west. With this last object in view, the position of the bases and meridians in the series are being definitely checked from time to time by means of a continuous triangulation carried on over the most favourable belt of country that can be found, under the personal direction of Mr. Lindsay Russel. The astronomic station on the 49th parallel at Pembina has been adopted as the point of departure for this triangulation.

Descriptive extracts from the Reports of Township surveys in Manitoba and the North-west Territory, extending to Fort Ellice, have been published. These Reports mention the nature of the surface of each township surveyed, the kind and quality of the soil and timber, the supply of water afforded by lakes, streams, springs and wells, with such other information as the intending settler requires most. Hundreds of townships in regular succession have been thus described by the surveyors, and scarcely a score are declared unfit for settlement. The land is usually pronounced of "good quality" or "the finest quality," "sandy loam," "deep dry loam," or "good black loam," "level," "rolling" or "undulating prairie;" "excellent," "very rich," or "first-class."

Still further west than the valley of the Assiniboine settlements are springing into existence, especially on the banks and at the confluence of rivers. The half breeds are selling their farms on the Red River, moving west, and establishing themselves on the Qu'Appelle, the Saskatchewan and its tributaries, and as far away as Peace River. These hardy *bois-brûlés* will always be the advance guard of the great army of regular im-