

this country; and in 1857 a Parliamentary investigation was ordered, which suddenly astonished the world at its revelations. After many delays, struggles, and troubles, we, having now fairly entered upon a brilliant career of development, with peace and prosperity before us, gladly extend the hand of welcome to the world, and offer a home of future independence to millions of our fellow creatures.

The Territory of the Northwest and British Columbia may be roughly estimated as occupying the whole area north of the forty-ninth parallel; and its magnitude can only be judged by comparison as follows:—

The area of the United States, as officially ascertained, is 2,936,166 square miles.

The Northwest of British America, including British Columbia, 2,598,837 square miles.

If the comparison is made with Europe, the area of all Europe is 3,811,594 square miles.

That of the Dominion, north of the forty-ninth parallel, only 2,598,837 square miles.

And if we add the total area of the Eastern Provinces and Prince Edward's Island, 351,570 square miles.

The whole Dominion of Canada has now an excess of area of 34,241 square miles, over that of the whole United States.

To return to Manitoba and the Northwest Territory, the area of rich soil and pasturage which we possess in the valleys of the Assiniboine and Saskatchewan alone, is about 40,000,000 acres, of which about 18,000,000 acres are *at once available for the agriculturist*, and this land is black with richness.

Of the rivers and lakes of this rich valley, in addition to the almost numberless smaller ones, there is

*The Saskatchewan River*, whose two great branches drain two-thirds of this district and is the most important. Both its great branches rise in the Rocky Mountains, crossing eighteen degrees of longitude, through undulating slopes of green and grassy uplands, the favorite pasture of myriads of wild cattle. This great stream affords in both branches about 1,400 miles of steamboat navigation, of which about 400 miles are the joint volumes of the confluent streams.

*The Red River* rises in Minnesota, in the United States, close to the sources of the Mississippi, and enters British Territory at the boundary line of Manitoba, about 120 miles from its mouth, where it discharges into Lake Winnipeg; it is navigable for about 400 miles, and last season four fine and commodious steamers, carrying freight and passengers, plied the river; also several smaller tug steamers. The number will be continually increasing.

*The Assiniboine* draining the plain between these rivers is the principal tributary to the Red River, emptying at Fort Garry, or Winnipeg, (new name) the capital of Manitoba. This river, with improvements at a comparatively trifling cost, would give nearly 200 miles of navigation.