

lawns, fences on the debtor's farm, are, by this act, declared free from seizure, by virtue of all writs of Execution issued by any court of this Province." No limit is placed on the value of the farm or home thus secured to the family whatever its value may become. It may be safely asserted that this law will greatly advance immigration to this Province, and prove a blessing to thousands of worthy and honest men, women and children for every one unworthily shielded by its provisions.

The rapid increase of the steamboat trade of Manitoba on the Red River is the best index of its commercial growth, as will be seen from the following statement:

Increase of 1875 over 1874	38,452,430 lbs.
Season of 1873	23,613,036 "
Season of 1874	37,626,200 "
Season of 1875	76,078,680 "

This 76,078,680 pounds comprises every description of freight, a greater portion being of course bonded goods from other parts of the Dominion and Canada, the balance being American goods.

This freight would have loaded 3,800 cars, a comfortable traffic for a railway the first year; it employed a fleet of seven steamers, with barges and innumerable flat boats. The number of passengers carried on this line of boats the past season may be estimated at, at least, 8000.

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 not within the limits of this Directory to enter into lengthy details of the resources and advantages of Manitoba to the Emigrant and Capitalist, as also of its climate, soil and agriculture. For such information of a reliable nature, we would recommend a careful perusal of Mr. Spence's excellent and complete pamphlet on Manitoba and the North-West, copyrighted. In giving a brief historical sketch of MANITOBA, we cannot do better than quote from an able article in *LOVELL'S GAZETTEER OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA*, with the kind permission of the Publisher of that valuable work.

"The name *Manitoba*, taken from a large lake, a part of which lies in the province, is a contraction, made by the old French Canadian *voyageurs*, of the Cree word, *Manito-waban*. *Manito* signifies supernatural, divine spirit; and *waban* means a strait. As the waters of a strait in that lake are agitated in an unusual way, the Indians believed formerly there was therein something supernatural, a spirit that moved them, and so they called the lake *Manitowaban*."

The writer proceeds to say:

"This section of North America was first visited by the French. Chevalier de la Vérandrye built a fort at the mouth of the Assiniboine in 1731. The French continued to trade there alone for many years, but in 1767 the first English traders visited it, and soon several rival companies were in operation. These finally dwindled into the famous North West Company, which in its turn was absorbed by the Hudson's Bay Company, chartered