

days; now it was five, and my fatigue correspondingly greater.

I was fortunate that in the course of the day I caught up with a team, and obtained a little rest. Presently my fellow-traveller turned in at an hotel and I continued on my way. On parting, he treated me to a drink and this braced me up. That same day, in full daylight, I reached Winnipeg.

My Valdis had secured accommodation over a laundry, and had moved in. I was glad of the opportunity to rest.

Twenty-three years have passed, and since then I have not seen our old place.

At the time of writing, in 1904, my home is in Winnipeg.

TRANSLATOR'S CODA

Simon Simonson has told his story. It is obviously written without thought of publication; it is highly personal, and does not attempt to tell a comprehensive story of the settlement.

Since it is written from the autobiographical and not the broad historical point of view, other accounts of the time and place must be kept in mind in order to obtain a true final impression. The author is at times justly critical of the leaders. It should be borne in mind that at the time when the site of the settlement was chosen, it was proposed to build the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway through Selkirk, that among the few buildings erected in the fall of 1875 there was a school-house,

and that about the New Year Carrie Taylor was teaching a class of approximately twenty-five pupils; that despite the devastating small-pox epidemic of 1876—77, the settlers organized in February of 1877 a local government, and a formal and impressive constitution set forth clearly and concisely the duties of officials and made provision for collection of taxes, building of roads, sanitation, maintenance of records, and arbitration of disputes; that in 1878 *Framfari* had six hundred subscribers, three hundred in Canada and three hundred in Iceland. It should be noted here, too, that some members of the first group brought nets from Iceland, only the mesh proved too large for lake fishing.

Mrs. J. B. Skaptason, the author's daughter, places in a truer perspective the part played by the wives of the early settlers when she mentions that her mother assisted with the haying, on one occasion working in water up to mid-thigh.

Mrs. Skaptason states that when her parents moved to Winnipeg, the hard years were of the past. Her mother managed a boarding house, and during the first year in the city the combined earnings of husband and wife amounted to one thousand dollars.

This translation has been a labor of love and is a small tribute to the memory of the pioneers to whom we owe so much.

W. K.

