

it will rapidly rise into usefulness as a manufacturing place. The following are the remarks of Prof. Hind on the country in the immediate vicinity of the Little Saskatchewan :

"The Rapid River rises from the densely wooded flanks of the Rocky Mountains, through a narrow excavated valley filled with balsam, poplar, and an undergrowth of cherry and dog-wood, with roses con-volvuli and various creepers. The slopes are covered with poplar eighteen inches in diameter.—Descending the river groves of poplar and spruce show themselves with thick forests of aspen and poplar covering the plateau on either hand. The river is here forty feet wide, with a very rapid current. Before it makes its easterly bend, the ash-leaved maple shows itself in groves, and on both sides is an open, undulating country, attractive and fertile, with detached clumps of young trees springing up in all directions. The region unwatered by the Little Saskatchewan continues rich and beautiful until within twenty-five miles of the Assiniboine, so that it may with propriety be stated, that for a distance of seventy-five miles this river meanders through a country admirably adapted for settlement."

Mr. Ralston deserves every credit for the push and the enterprise that he has displayed in forming and perfecting his colony, and success is likely to crown his industry and activity.

So rich and inexhaustible is the soil that wheat has been cropped off the same place for forty years without manure and without showing signs of exhaustion. It is especially a wheat-growing soil, and is believed to contain the most favourable conditions for the growth of this grain on the continent. Pumpkins, potatoes, and roots of all sorts grow to perfection. Strawberries, currants (red and black) raspberries, plums, cherries, blueberries, whortleberries, cranberries, both bush and marsh, grow wild in abundance. Flax is very luxuriant. The wild grasses of the country, which are very nutritious, are particularly favorable to stock-raising of all sorts. Cattle can be fattened in Manitoba, and driven to St. Paul without loss of weight. There are large tracts of woods along the streams. The beetroot grows in great abundance, but the saccharine qualities of the sugar beet have not yet been tested.

Manitoba is situated in the middle of the continent, nearly equally distant between the Pole and the Equator, and the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Its climate gives a condition of decided heat in summer and decided cold in winter. The snow goes away and ploughing begins in April, which is about the same time as in the older Provinces of Canada, and the northern United States on the Atlantic seaboard, and the north-western states of Minnesota and Wisconsin. The crops are harvested in August. The long sunny days of summer bring vegetation of all sorts to rapid maturity. The days are warm and the nights cool. Autumn begins about the 20th September, and lasts till the end of November, when the regular frosts set in. The winter proper comprises the months of December, January, February, and March. Spring comes in April. The summer months are part of May, June, July, August, and part of September. In winter the thermometer sinks to 30 and 40° below