

Macoun says that the country along the Peace River for 760 miles with a width of 150 miles on each side of the river, is as suitable for the production of grain as any part of Ontario. The climate and productions of this region resemble those of the country around Lake Erie. He was positive that the climate is uncommonly suited for agriculture. Coal of the best quality is found in abundance, especially near the Rocky Mountains, and in many places it is mixed with iron ore. The climate is affected by the "Chinook" winds from the South, and by the warm winds from the Pacific, which are not so much intercepted by the Rocky Mountains as they are farther south, because these mountains fall away in height towards the north. This is the richest part of Canada, and will no doubt soon be the home of a large population. The capital of the North-West is Battleford, on the N. Saskatchewan and Pac. R. R. line. It is 650 miles N. W. of Winnipeg, or 100 miles further away than Quebec is from Hamilton. In a few years these places will be connected by railway and by navigation. The only obstruction at present to the navigation is the Grand Rapids at the mouth of the Saskatchewan, and when these are overcome, vessels can sail from Edmonton on the Saskatchewan to Moorehead on the Red River, in Minnesota. It is even proposed to connect by a canal the Red River with the Mississippi, and thus open a water route to New Orleans. The distance from L. Winnipeg to Port Nelson, on Hudson Bay, is 301 miles, and the intervening country is flat, well timbered, and does not present very great obstacles to the building of a railway in that direction. The Assiniboine is navigable as far as Portage la Prairie.

The railway crosses the Red River at Selkirk below Winnipeg, and the distance to Thunder Bay is about 430 miles. This part will probably be finished before the end of this year. The

line west of Selkirk is more easily constructed. The Winnipeg River flows into L. Winnipeg; it is not navigable, since it has many rapids and cascades.

Manitoba extends 133 miles from east to west, and 104 from north to south. It has the richest alluvial soil on the continent; its climate is healthy; the winter is colder than in some parts of Ontario, but it is clear, dry and pleasant. On account of its dry atmosphere, the cold is not so much felt. The country around the lakes north of the province is generally covered with forest, and coal has been found in the south of the province, in the Pembina and the Riding Mountains, and along the Souris River. Manitoba is destined to be one of the finest stock-raising countries in the world; its boundless prairies covered with luxuriant grasses and its fine climate are among its peculiar advantages. It must be remembered, also, that wheat attains its best growth near its northern limit, because the colder climate develops the grain and not the stalk of the plant. The prairie extends about as far east as the Lake of the Woods, and beyond that lies the district of Keewatin. It is described as a land of lakes, forests and minerals.

The boundaries of Ontario as recently decided upon are as follows: R. St. Lawrence, Lake Ontario, R. Niagara, Lake Erie, R. Detroit, L. St. Clair, R. St. Clair, L. Huron, R. St. Mary, L. Superior, Pigeon River, Rainy Lake, Rainy River, 95th meridian, English River, L. St. Joseph, Albany River, James Bay, 79th meridian to L. Temiscanang and Ottawa River.

The following table of distances will be found useful.

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|---------------------------|-----|-------------|
| Duluth to Quebec,         | - - | 1200 miles. |
| Quebec to Liverpool,      | - - | 2600 "      |
| Port Nelson to Liverpool, | - - | 2966 "      |
| Montreal to               | "   |             |
| by Strait of Belle Isle,  | - - | 2790 "      |
| by Cape Race,             | - - | 2990 "      |
| New York to Liverpool,    | - - | 3040 "      |