

move. To this will be added the traffic in cattle, an industry capable of immense development in the regions named.

*Immigration.*—A more direct and cheaper route for European immigrants to the Canadian Northwest is urgently needed. Many of those who left their old homes in past years with the purpose of trying their fortunes in that new country of "illimitable possibilities," as Lord Dufferin happily described it, drifted to the United States. This was almost inevitable from the mixed route which had for so many years afforded the only means of access to that country. The loss to the Empire in wealth and population which has been occasioned in this way will be checked as soon as the new route is opened up, and immigrants are thereby permitted direct access to the country, without being exposed to the allurements of foreign land agents. The benefits which will result in this way are so apparent that the Government will, no doubt, give every encouragement to the use of this route as a means to the settlement of the country.

*Rivers.*—Among the principal rivers of the Northwest are the Red, the Assiniboine, and the Saskatchewan, all emptying into Hudson Bay through the Nelson. The two former are navigable for 600 miles each and upwards, and the Saskatchewan and its branches for 1,500 miles. In the valleys of these rivers the land is exceptionally fertile, and much of it is already taken up and occupied by enterprising and prosperous settlers. The more important cities and towns which have grown up along their banks are: Fargo, Moorhead, Grandin, Grand Forks, Crookston and St. Vincent, in the United States, and Emerson, Winnipeg, Selkirk, Portage la Prairie, Brandon, Fort Ellice, Carleton, Prince Albert, Medicine Hat, Battleford and Edmonton, in Canada. The trade of these towns and the produce of thousands of miles of the richest valley lands will find their outlet through Hudson Bay. Along the Saskatchewan are extensive and valuable coal deposits, easily worked and affording an immediate traffic for the railway in supplying the settlements already formed between Winnipeg and Grand Rapids, at the crossing of the Saskatchewan.

*Minerals.*—The coast regions of the Bay and Strait are known to be rich in minerals. Dr. Bell, F. R. S., Assistant Director of the Canadian Geological Survey, whose explorations have covered a period of eight years, reports having discovered large deposits of various iron ores, galena, gypsum, asbestos, and mica, as well as promising traces of gold, silver,