

round the north of Lake Superior (latitude 49), where some hundreds of miles of uninviting territory separates us from Manitoba. Every man along this line is uncomfortably distant from his fellow-subjects, and provokingly near to your people, for not to love you or your institutions is our duty.

THE WHEAT COUNTRY.

Neither Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, nor the lower portion of the Province of Quebec are celebrated for their agricultural capacity, but the valley of the upper St. Lawrence, running from a few miles north of the river to the States that it joins, the valley of the Ottawa, with its tributaries, and some forty or fifty thousand square miles in Ontario, compare favourably with the region to their south. Manitoba and the western extension is a country of "bulls" and "bears" (of the two-legged kind, I mean, who toss up, or pull down), one assuring us that wheat, which averages twenty bushels to the acre from Pennsylvania to Dakota, averages fifty bushels in Manitoba, while another says that, if not eaten up by grasshoppers, it freezes in August. One tells us that cattle fatten in winter on pastures buried under twelve inches of snow, another that they perish unless well housed and cared for.

One tells of fine garden vegetables growing where another says the ground never thaws three inches deep. The truth is, isothermal lines rise as we proceed west, and the fifty-fifth parallel there may compare with the forty-fifth here.

ON THE PACIFIC,

the mean temperature may be still higher, and it may be comforting for you to know that if Northern British Columbia at 54.40 be somewhat tropical, southern Alaska, which joins it there, cannot be exactly Siberian. Wherever there are great rivers, there must be, except in ice-bound regions, fertile plains and valleys, and in our western possessions, after discounting largely for unprofitable portions, there must be vast portions fitted for the happy dwelling place of man. A railroad north of Lake Superior, through to the Pacific, will soon open all to the population of Europe, who will be attracted by all reasonable facilities and inducements, and were not mankind distracted by all the land to be "opened" for settlement between this and Patagonia, not to mention New Holland and the Islands of the Ocean, we might expect to see the country filled up in our day, provided always, that Europe discovers a more prolific process of incubation, or prevention for the mortality of infants, and the "heathen Chinese" lends his assistance. Ireland is tolerably drained; Germany and Scandinavia are not inexhaustible; Southern Europe has a sufficient outlet in Africa; Russia moves eastward. Malthus is no longer a prophet.

History, Romance and Tradition; a Great National Highway: the new Governor-General.

Leaving the future of this western extension in "the lap of the gods," to be shaken out as time may determine, let us return to OLD CANADA—the Canada of two hundred years' history, romance, and tradition—stretching southwesterly from Gaspé, lat. 49, to Detroit, lat. 42. over one thousand miles, through, or along, which flows the most magnificent inland water-course on our globe, in a direct line from the centre of our American continent to central Europe, and the shortest possible