

tent. As compared with settlers in the Western States of the Union, farmers in the North-West have far more advantages, and there can be no doubt—judging from past experience—that should real grievances be found to exist, everything in reason will be done by the Dominion Government to satisfy claims that have any justice.

The soil, of course, varies in different localities—in some places it is lighter than others; but, as a rule, it is a rich mould or loam, resting on a deep and tenacious clay subsoil. There are not only numerous rivers, creeks, lakes, and lakelets throughout the country, but it has now been ascertained that good water can be found almost anywhere by digging to a depth of from 10 to 20 feet.

The fuel problem has virtually been solved by the discovery of rich coal deposits in different parts of the country. The coal beds in the Bow and Belly rivers district have been the first to be actually worked, and the result of these workings has been highly satisfactory. The immense extent of these coal beds has been approximately ascertained by surveys under the direction of the Dominion Government Survey, and it is estimated that the quantity of coal underlying a square mile of land in the Bow and Belly rivers district is in one case 4,900,000 tons; in two cases 5,000,000; and in another 9,000,000 tons. The coal is in general exposed on the surface, and there is consequently little labour necessary to the working of the mines. Though no Government surveys have been made in the surrounding districts, coal-bearing rocks are known to extend to the north and west of the parts from which coal is now being taken. Valuable and extensive coal beds are also known to exist in the Souris district, in Southern Manitoba and the south-eastern part of the North-West, and these will shortly be opened up by the projected Manitoba South-Western Branch of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Careful examination shows that the coal deposits in this district are of the tertiary age, consisting of lignite or brown coal, associated with clays and thin sheets of brimstone, and that the beds are so inclined as to make the working easy and inexpensive. The coal is found to burn with a fierce heat, leaving about 5 per cent. of white ash, with no appearance of clinkers. Mining operations are to be commenced next season, and the successful working of these coal beds must prove of immense importance to the city of Winnipeg and the whole of Manitoba and the Canadian North-West. In addition to the coal, however, the banks of the rivers are lined with woods, and the plains are interspersed here and there with clumps of trees. In some cases farmers, it is true, have to haul their wood a good distance, but generally speaking the settlers can always obtain sufficient for their use.

What more can I say about this great country? What greater proof of its adaptability for settlement can there be than the fact that when I first went there seventeen years ago there were only some 10,000 to 12,000 inhabitants (not including the Indians), while now there are said to be some 300,000 settlers, few if any being