

### The River Scene.

A winding road around a hill  
Will lead you to an inlet still  
Where willows nodding o'er the stream  
Scarce dare disturb the lily's dream.  
A wooden bridge afar is seen  
Amid a mist of summer green,  
While 'neath the cedars, clear and cool,  
Comes bubbling up the drinking pool.  
And when the twilight breezes blow  
Athwart the tree-tops, downward go  
Along the path the quiet cows  
To drink below the scented bows.  
Red Cherry, with her yellow horns,  
Breaks thro' a hedge of scatter'd thorns.  
While Daisy follows Brindle down  
O'er tangled roots and beech leaves brown.  
The unseen hand of Time casts o'er  
The mellow sky a starry shower;  
And heralded by Eurus bold  
And crowned with beauties manifold,  
Queen Dian mounts her skyey throne,  
The bee across the mead his flown.  
The halcyon has found his cave  
The egrette forgets to crave  
Apollo's kisses, and the bat  
Recl in the shadow o'er the flats  
Like withered leaves from smitten oak.  
Sweet Day in Night's ensu'ded cloak  
Enraptured, implores the silent queen  
For glancing smiles and opal sheen,  
And all the blessings of the dawn,  
Once more to be around her drawn,  
While ceaselessly between the steep  
The river to its far rest creeps.

—Robert Elliott.

### Extreme Northwestern Canada.

The following rather interesting account of the trip of Mr. D. B. Dowling of the Dominion geographical survey through the wilds of north-western Canada, was furnished the *Winnipeg Free Press* by that gentleman on the evening before his departure from Winnipeg to Ottawa. Mr. Dowling said: "We met at Fond du Lac, at the east end of Lake Athabasca, and made a survey of the south coast of the lake, which hitherto is not described in any published map with any degree of accuracy. We went together up the Black and Hatchet Rivers to Hatchet lake, and separated there at noon on the 25th of August, Mr. Tyrrell leaving in the large canoe, with the Isle la Crosse Indians, and I started off with Messrs. Guillaum and Porter and my two men, with instructions to get out of the country the best way I could other than the course pursued by Mr. Tyrrell. I had great difficulty in getting any information from the Indians as to my route, for they were afraid that Tyrrell might go that way, and they were anxious to take the shortest cut home. Finally, however, for a bribe of twenty five cartridges I got one of them to draw me a map to show me the portage from Hatchet lake, an effort which, however, did not prove of much use. My aim was to follow an old route spoken of by Thompson, an old Hudson Bay trader. After two days search I found a portage from Hatchet lake to a small lake in an easterly direction; and we then had to make nine portages past a chain of lakes to a small shallow stream that runs east to Reindeer lake. When we reached it we found it very shallow, getting most of its water from the last lake passed. From the lake to the river there is a sixty foot fall, boarded with boulders, and I decided to make an artificial replenishing of the stream's waters; accordingly we broke out the boulder ridge and soon succeeded in raising the water very considerably. After this we had a lot of rain, for the only time during the trip; but instead of being depressed by it we were elated spiritually and actually. This stream is known as the Swan river and is about fifty miles long. On account

of the shallowness of the water we did not make as good time as we expected; we had to make many portages and lift our canoes over the rapids, and we were running short of provisions. Accordingly we struck northeast for the nearest Hudson Bay Co. post we knew at the north end of Reindeer Lake, known as the Lac de Broche's post, which was the nearest point to the barren grounds that we were at. From this post all the dried cariboo meat is shipped south."

"Having replenished our larder we went south to the middle of the lake (Reindeer) and followed the west shore south to the outlet. The whole lake is about 200 miles long, and is much prettier than Hatchet lake and twice as large; it is dotted throughout with islands, some of them of a fair size; they are nearly all rock with very little earth, but there is some moss, small pine and tamaric. There is so little earth in this district that the people at Lac de Brochet have no little trouble in finding mud to bank their huts with. The rock is mostly 'gaciss' or banded granite with parallel layers of minerals. There is no grass, but there is white and yellow moss on which the cariboo feed. Towards the south end of Reindeer lake the rocks become very high and abrupt, and the scenery is much grander."

"From Reindeer lake we descended the Deer's river (there are altogether too many Deer rivers in the country) to its junction with the Churchill river. Hitherto the water had been perfectly clear, but as soon as we reached the Churchill we passed into dark water. We ascended the Churchill river to the Frog portage or the Trade portage, as it used to be called, at which point our instrumental survey was finished which had been commenced at the end of Lake Athabasca and carried through to this point. Thence we turned more to the west, still ascending the Churchill river till we reached the Stanley mission leaving the Churchill river we turned south again, and by making four short portages reached Lac de Route, which we crossed. We then ascended a small stream passing through several small lakes; this stream bears a different name between each lake, but is really the same stream, although its character is very different. That part of the stream known as the Montreal river is 25 miles long, and is one long succession of rapids; we took over four days to get up it, and we ordinarily could make 25 miles a day up stream and 30 to 35 miles a day down. This was the hardest route we ascended, although by this time we were in much better training."

"We at last reached the Montreal lake, which is about thirty-five miles long, with an average width of perhaps eight miles. Very shallow and with apparently an all sandy bottom and sandy shores. It is a very fine spawning ground for whitefish, and we saw them coming down the Montreal river in shoals; fishing in this lake is prohibited by the Government. Our water journey was now over, and we left our canoes at the Montreal post of the H. B. Co."

"From Montreal post to Prince Albert the trail is ninety miles long. There was but one pony to be had there, and we started to build

a cart. The cart still remains in an unfinished condition for a team arrived from Prince Albert to take thither a sick man from the post. The invalid lay in the wagon, our dunnage was piled around him, and we walked. It took us over four days to reach Prince Albert, which we did on Wednesday the 12th inst."

### A Report on Civic Government.

At a late meeting of the Winnipeg city council the special committee appointed to consider the proposals regarding a change in the form of government of the city presented the following report:

"Your committee has fully and carefully considered the whole question of the government of the city, and is of the opinion that it is desirable that some change should be made from the present system, and with a view to effecting an improvement it has considered the proposed system in all its hearings, and with a few amendments which it has made to the original draft it would recommend its adoption by council, and also that steps be taken to procure the necessary legislative authority to bring the system into operation. The outline as amended is as follows:

(1) That there shall be a chief official, to be termed "The General Superintendent," appointed by a judge of the court of Queen's Bench, on the recommendation of the council, for a period of five years at a salary of from \$4,000 to \$6,000 per annum, and to be removable by a majority vote of council on three months' notice, or the payment of three months' salary, he to have the supervision of all the departments of the city, under direction of an executive composed of two members of council, to be appointed as follows:

(a) The mayor, elected by the people as at present, for a term of three years.

(b) A member of the council, chosen from among themselves, to hold office for the time of his term. The members of the executive to be paid reasonable salaries for their services, say from \$1,500 to \$3,000 each per annum, this to be exclusive of the annual grant to the mayor.

(2) That the council be composed of two committees instead of four, the mayor to be chairman of that portion of the council at present represented by the finance committee and market, license and health committee, and that the council's representative be chairman of the other half now represented by the committee on works and fire, water and light committee.

(3) The general superintendent to be an ex-officio member of the council and all committees of the same, but without vote in council, and to be deputy chairman of finance.

(4) It shall be the duty of the executive and general superintendent to lay out the details of the policy for the government of the city and submit the same to the council through the committees for their approval and ratification.

(5) The council to be composed and elected as at present with the same authority they now hold over all receipts and expenditures."

At the meeting of the Trade and Labor council at Toronto, it was decided not to enter a protest against the manufacture of binder twine at the central prison, the members being of opinion that it was not worth while, as it would not materially interfere with honest labor. They were of the opinion, however, that at least part of the money earned by the prisoner in making this twine should be devoted to the use of his family.