

cattle, horses and sheep. Dr. J. B. Hulbert, of Ottawa, says in regard to this:—

"The entire area is fit for pasturage, as the native grasses grow over the whole country, even to the shores of Hudson's Bay and the Arctic Ocean, and down the Mackenzie to the sea, and all the region in the valley of the Mackenzie and its tributaries is fit for the production of summer grass. Through all the country east of the Great Lakes of the Mackenzie River system the grasses are like our June grass. The Dominion embraces the chief pasture and meadow lands of North America, and these with their accompanying flocks and herds, are of more importance than wheat lands."

Over all the plains south of the Great Slave Lake buffalo roamed in countless millions in days gone by. One peculiarity of the grasses of that region is that they cure naturally on the stalk. In nutritious qualities the buffalo grass is equivalent to a combination of Kentucky blue grass and oats, and the horses and cattle of these northwestern plains will turn, with a contemptuous sniff, from the finest cultivated hay placed before them in the manger, and go outside and paw away a foot or more of snow, and eat their fill and fatten on the sweet grass lying underneath.

In a territory so vast and so little explored it is not likely that more than a mere fraction of its mineral riches are known. The coal area of the Northwest is estimated at 65,000 square miles with from 5,000,000 to 9,000,000 under each mile. Fuel will be in no wise lacking for future settlers in this great country.

The tangled mass of the mountain ranges are seamed through and through with veins of precious metals. More than \$53,000,000 of gold alone has already been taken from the mines of British Columbia. Mines of gold are worked also on the Lake of the Woods. Salt, sulphur, asphalt petroleum, metals and minerals of every kind and sort lie beneath the soil, waiting the needs of the coming millions who shall one day make the great Northwest their home.

Our great West needs only to have the truth told of its resources and its abilities. Its climate, soil and products will stand criticism and fullest investigation in the light of day.

Manitoba, being the first portion of Rupert's Land to be inhabited and developed, it has of necessity made greater progress than the territory to the west of it.

From a population of 62,260 in 1881, it rose to a population of 152,506 in 1891, an increase of 90,246 in 10 years. The total acreage occupied in 1881 was 1,511,135, and in 1891, 4,416,592. In 1881 only 45,750 acres were in wheat, which rose in 1891 to 896,471 acres, and there were 1,000,000 acres in wheat in Manitoba in 1893, yielding 16,000,000 bushels of the finest wheat that was ever put through an elevator—an average of 16 bushels to the acre, while Ontario only yielded 15½ bushels; Wisconsin, 12½; Minnesota, 13; Iowa, 11½; Nebraska, 12½, and Dakota, 12½ bushels—and it was not a good year for yield in Manitoba either.

118,807 bushels of oats were raised in 1881, and 8,470,212 in 1891. They only had 11,800 horses in 1881, but could boast of 86,753 in

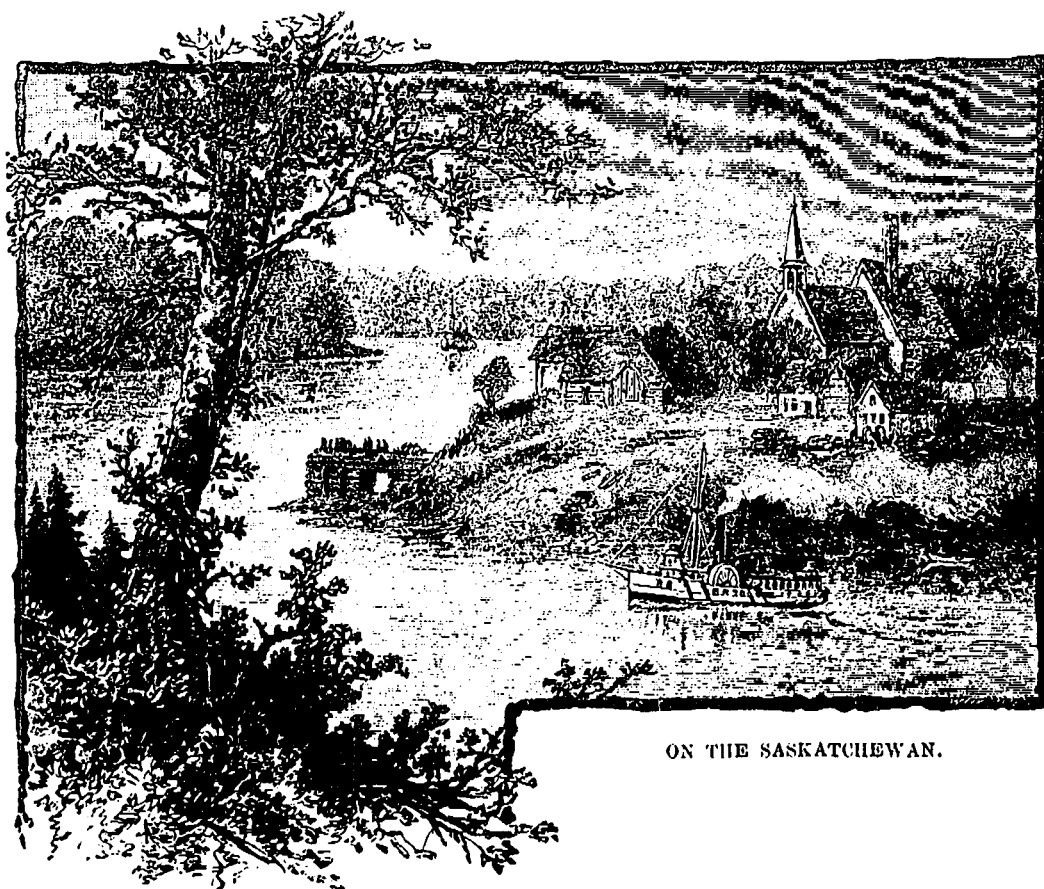
1891 and their cows ran up in the same period from 17,624 to 82,614. The farmers of Manitoba made 4,857,132 pounds of butter in 1891, as against 857,808 pounds in 1881. In 1881 there were only about 130 miles of railway constructed and operated in Manitoba, now there are in Manitoba and the Territories 6,372 miles of railway.

In 1881 Winnipeg had a population of 6,245, with an assessment of \$4,208,460; in 1891 its population had risen to 24,068, and its assessment to \$19,914,200, and for 1893 its assessment is \$21,692,700, exclusive of \$1,500,300 of exemptions, and it is safe to say that the population of Winnipeg is to-day 30,000 and over.

The volume of commercial business in Winnipeg done in 1892 was \$40,000,000; the combined capital represented by the chartered banks of Canada having branches in Winnipeg is \$10,000,000; the city has now 26 churches, 19 schools, 12 banks, 16 newspapers, 122 miles of sidewalk, 20 miles of water mains, 11 miles of gas mains and 19 miles of street railway, as against 20 miles of very indifferent sidewalk, 8 churches, no street railway, a great deal of mud, 4 newspapers and 4 banks in 1891.

What has been said as to the soil and capabilities for wheat growing in Manitoba applies equally well to the districts of Assiniboia, Alberta and Saskatchewan, since as fine samples of No. 1 hard Fyfe as were ever grown in Manitoba have been produced in the districts named. And when the day comes when these future provinces shall have absorbed the same agricultural population as Manitoba has to-day, and the population of all these provinces increases from year to year, as it is bound to do, the 16,000,000 bushels of wheat raised in Manitoba in 1893 will be as a pint is to a bushel, compared with the millions of acres of golden grain that will await the harvest of the hardy toilers on what will yet be the greatest wheat field of the world.

But the wealth of resource in these great prairies is not bound up in the grain produce



ON THE SASKATCHEWAN.