

MANITOBA AND THE NORTH-WEST.

GENERAL FEATURES OF THE COUNTRY.

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We are strongly of opinion that altogether too much is spoken and written about the labour and hardships of the emigrant or settler when he comes first to this country. No doubt he must work. He need not expect to find a Garden of Eden ready made to his hands. Here, as in every other part of the world, labour is the condition of life and of success. But we emphatically deny that the labour is arduous, or the privations to be endured excessive. In fact, compared to what hundreds of thousands of our countrymen have undergone in the older provinces of the Dominion, they are mere child's play. In those days the forest had to be cleared away. Trees three or four feet in diameter and from one to two hundred feet high had to be cut down and burned. Besides, it took years before the stumps rotted out of the ground, and then the labour recommenced, for great deposits of stones had to be removed, and the soil ditched and drained. But with the exceptions of the last point mentioned, and this only in some localities, none of these difficulties have to be encountered in Manitoba and the North West. Here is a vast prairie country ready cleared for the settler's occupation. All he has to do is to pitch his tent, or build a shanty until he has time and means to erect a more substantial building—to plough the sod over, then re-plough it, sow his seed, harrow it, and wait for the crop. If he is a poor man he of course must not expect to fare sumptuously every day. But the necessities of life are cheap enough and easily procurable, and any man or family that has to live for a year or so on pork, bread, beans, potatoes and tea, when they have the land beneath them, a rain proof roof over their heads and the assured prospect before them, and that at no distant date, of comfortable independence, perhaps affluence, are not to be pitied. Game is plentiful and during the proper seasons the pioneer's bill of fare may with little effort be made even luxurious.

One of the greatest trials that the emigrant associates with removing to a new and strange country is the breaking up of home and social ties. He is too apt to regard it as a kind of evil. But this trial, in the great generality of cases is merely imaginary. It is astonishing how quickly new and friendly associations are formed in this country. There is a reciprocity of kindness and assistance which almost universally prevails. And in a few weeks the settler may make as friendly and valuable relations as any he possessed in his native land. So much is this the case that in a few years he has no desire to return to his old home, except for a temporary visit.

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LOCATION AND AREA OF MANITOBA.

Our approximate estimate of the area of the present Province of Manitoba is not official, but from our calculations it contains about 37,000,000 acres; of this the Hudson's Bay Company's one twentieth ownership and school reserves amount to 2,830,000 acres, leaving available 34,170,000 acres (including half-breed reserves) within the present boundary of the Province, being about 240 miles square. The Province, lying between the parallels of 49 and 52 deg. 20 min. of north latitude, and 96 and 101 deg. of west longitude, occupies nearly the actual centre of the North American continent, is nearly equally distant between the pole and the equator, and the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

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CLIMATE AND LENGTHS OF SEASONS.

Very mistaken ideas prevail in the Old Country as to the climate of Canada. Every extreme of hardship is associated with it by many people. Nothing is further from the fact. No doubt there are conditions of decided heat in Summer and cold in Winter. The thermometer will sometimes range 90 in the shade in Summer and 30 below zero in Winter. But these extremes will continue for only a few days at a time out of the 365. But the thorough dryness and bracingness of the atmosphere moderate all extremes. Damp and fog are almost unknown. Such a thing as a Scotch mist is a phenomenon. The Winter is considered a most enjoyable season, though each has its pleasures, and it is this variety, combined with the sunny sky and pure healthy air which constitutes the great charm of the climate. March brings Spring—April is sowing time, and May ushers in the Summer. An almost tropical climate then succeeds during which vegetation is most rapid. July is the hay and August the grain harvest. Then follow two months of delightful Autumn weather and Winter generally sets in about the middle of November.