

wood is very fine. Forests of oak, and maple, and poplar, stretch away from the banks on either side to a considerable distance from the river. The open prairie beyond is studded with groves and clumps of every variety of shape and form. \* \* \* \*

The house of Mr. Doggett, a Nova Scotian, is built on the north bank of the river, a beautiful stream flows in front, the house itself nestles at the foot of a maple wood which towers majestically behind it, and sweeping with the curvature of the river, partly encloses it, forming a beautiful background to the silver stream that meanders in the front. \* \* \* \*

“At Poplar Point, a settler was threshing his wheat. A ponderous machine driven by horses was at work; at one end men were pitching the unthreshed grain into the machine; as the straw emerged at the other end, parties were removing it a few feet and burning it as fast as delivered from the machine. In the evening all that remained of the stacks was the grain in one heap and ashes in another. In the east this would be considered a wanton waste; here it is looked upon as labour saved. The limitless prairie yields all the food the cattle require, while the richness and fertility of the soil are such, that the people consider the making or saving of manure as labour lost. \* \* \*

“At High Bluff, a farmer had dug a lime-kiln, and the section showed a solid bed of over two feet of the richest mould. \* \* \* With ground like this, attempts to make or save manure are looked upon with derision. The main difficulty seems to be, how to get rid of the manure. \* \* \* \* Meanwhile, the Legislature have passed a law to prevent it being thrown into the river. \* \* \* \* The manure heaps of this settlement, if in Ontario, would sell for more than the cost here of the ‘fee simple’ of the farms on which they lie and rot.”

The only sentences in the foregoing description that might give a false impression of the whole country to the ordinary reader are those that speak of the wood. Over great part of the fertile belt there is a decided scarcity of wood. Aspens are almost the only trees to be seen, after leaving the Lower Assiniboine, for the next six or seven hundred miles, going west. This, of course, is one of the drawbacks of the country, but by no means so irremediable an evil as Archbishop Tache thinks. There is timber to the east, north, and west of the timberless district, and surely ways and means for transporting it can be found. Besides, trees