

THE FUTURE OF WESTERN CANADA.

You are perhaps an immigrant from Europe, and have landed on the shores of Lake Ontario with a view to establish for yourself a new and permanent Canadian home. Like tens of thousands who seek and reach the banks of the St. Lawrence, or the region of the Great Lakes, you have no distinct idea of the country, its productions, its inhabitants, or its scenery. You are anxious to acquire some information which will enable you to shape an opinion as to the spot best adapted to meet your views and circumstances. If you could enjoy a bird's-eye view of the country, and grasp distinctly many of its leading physical features, it would, doubtless, assist you in making choice of a suitable spot for a future home; although you would be wise enough, perhaps, not to be led by actual appearances altogether, but would resolve, after the first favourable impression had been produced, to discover whether the social and even political tendencies of the inhabitants were such as you could sympathize with and enjoy.

Place a map of Canada and of the Northern States of the Union before you, and accept me for a guide; if what you see and hear does not please or convince, you will only have to regret the loss of an hour's attention, which the most industrious can generally find time to spare.

We will select Toronto, the capital of Western Canada, as our starting point; and proceeding nearly due north by the Northern Railway, we shall arrive in three-and-a-half hours at Collingwood Harbour, in Georgian Bay, a part of Lake Huron. To our left are the Blue Mountains; let us ascend them until we attain an altitude of nearly 1,000 feet above Lake Huron, in the township of Ennalsburg, and some ten miles from Collingwood Harbour. You are now standing on the highest land in that part of Western Canada which lies to the south of the distant, rugged, northern shores of Lake Huron. Our view is still circumscribed, and exhibits no other features beyond a blue expanse of water far to the north, and forest, forest, all around us. From this elevated and central spot, however, we may contemplate with our mind's eye the whole expanse of Western Canada, and see throughout the short future of the next ten years to come, the wonderful changes which will have been worked out in the vast region at our feet. But where are the boundaries of Western Canada? where the mineral region? where the tamed agricultural region? and where the exhaustless timber region?

The boundary line of Upper Canada runs through the centre of all the great lakes and their junction rivers; so that starting from Pigeon River on Lake Superior, near its most westerly extremity, you may, with a steamboat, follow for more than a thousand miles, the imaginary line which separates Western Canada from the United States. Let us trace out this immense water communication and see how it invests the country on all sides. From Pigeon River, 1,900 miles from the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and 600 feet above the sea, we steam across Lake Superior, and reach the Sault Ste. Marie Canal, descend 17 feet through locks 70 feet broad and 350 feet long, pass on into Lake Huron and through the River St. Clair, Lake St. Clair and Detroit River, thus sweeping round the southern extremity of the great peninsula of Western Canada. On then through Lake Erie to the mouth of the Welland Canal; here we descend 350 feet through 27 locks, each 150 feet by 26½ feet, to the deep waters of Lake Ontario; then through the exquisite scenery of the thousand islands, until we arrive at the St. Lawrence Canals, through which we pass by means of 19 locks 200 feet long by 45 feet broad, letting us slowly down upwards of 150 feet to the level of the Ottawa, where it joins the mighty St. Lawrence. We have now reached the utmost eastern boundary of Western Canada, and must steam up the great river of the north, (Ottawa,) overcoming its rapids by means of locks, until we reach the City of Ottawa; and thus, without changing our steamer, we have traversed in the direction of two sides of a triangle, at least two-thirds of the boundary of Western Canada. But we may still progress up the noble north-eastern boundary, in steamer or canoe, until we reach Lake Timiscamang. Here we have arrived at the height of land which separates the waters flowing into the Gulf of St. Lawrence from those which reach the Hudson's Bay. From Lake Timiscamang to Pigeon River, an imaginary curved line, following pretty accurately the direction of the shores of Lakes Huron and Superior, forms the last link of the boundary of Western Canada. This vast region occupies an area of

about 147,000 square miles, and extends over sixteen degrees of longitude and eight degrees of latitude.

We are now in latitude 44° 30'; and if we trace the continuation of this parallel through Western Canada we shall find to the south of it lying the great agricultural region, distinguished in a remarkable manner for the fertility of its soil, and the adaptation of its climate to the purposes of husbandry. Is there any reason for this arbitrary division you will ask. Yes, a great geological reason to account for its fertility, and a great climatological reason to account for its adaptation to vegetable growth.

1. The parallel of latitude before named, marks the northern limit of the sedimentary rocks in Western Canada; rocks which have been deposited at the bottom of ancient seas, and have in great part retained their flat surfaces undisturbed. Upon the level groundwork of these rocks have accumulated vast deposits of drift clays, which have been produced by the grinding up and slow decay of the granite rocks north of this parallel (44° 30'). The sedimentary rocks themselves consist of limestone and shale, giving rise after disintegration and decay, to abundance of those necessary components of soil which plants require for their nourishment and support.

2. The 44th parallel of latitude cuts off a peninsula portion from Western Canada, and you may extend the term peninsula to that entire part south of the parallel where we now stand. If we trace the 44th parallel through Europe, we shall find that it intersects the south of France and Tuscany, countries rich in olives, the cereals and the grape. The most southern portion of Western Canada is touched by the 42nd parallel, which, when continued through Europe, is found to intersect the northern part of Spain and the Roman States. These vast inland seas, Huron, Erie, and Ontario, which almost encircle the peninsula portion of Western Canada, soften summer heat, temper winter cold, and preserve a moist atmosphere in which vegetables luxuriate. The adaptation of these conditions to secure the excellence we claim for Western Canada as an agricultural country, you will shortly better appreciate when we have completed our external survey, and travel southwards through the interior of the country.

North of the 44° 30' parallel is a mixed mineral and timber region, where are millions of acres in the valleys of the tributaries of the Ottawa and the rivers flowing into Lake Huron, capable of yielding a rich harvest of lumber for a century to come. Now draw an imaginary air line from where we stand on the Blue Mountains, to the county of Essex, the most westerly portion of Western Canada. Let this line revolve about ourselves as a pivot, first to the left, until its extremity rests near Kingston, and then back again to the right, until it rests near the Bruce Mines. You see you have swept over nearly the whole of the agricultural region of Western Canada, with the exception of the Valley of the Ottawa before mentioned, occupying about 10,000 square miles. Now from the Bruce Mines, let your imaginary air line sweep over the country towards the north and east, until it again rests its extremity near Kingston. You have traversed the mixed mineral and lumber region; and beyond the Bruce Mines, all along the northern shore of Lake Huron and the northern shore of Lake Superior lies the great mineral region.

If we had leisure we might pause to reason upon the extraordinary difference which may arise in course of time, between the characters and social position of the future inhabitants of these diverse regions, but that is a speculation which coming events render difficult indeed.

We have now examined and traced out the boundaries of our country, let us proceed to establish our relationship to neighbouring States and Provinces which may influence our industrial or social position. North-east lies Eastern Canada, north-west the trackless regions of the Hudson's Bay Company's territories. Every other part of Western Canada is surrounded by the several States of the American Union. In order, proceeding from east to west, these are New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota. We lie like a wedge between them—New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio on one side, Michigan and Wisconsin on the other—our communication by water complete with all that have been mentioned, and with the ocean, without obstruction, by means of the St. Lawrence; or by numerous railroads and canals with the Atlantic seaboard. And herein lies our strength and the hopes of our future. Set aside the advantages of position in relation to the neighbouring States of the Union and the ocean, and the progress of this country would be like the slow, yet steady flow of the rivers which

| QUERREY, N. 46° 49' 2." | |
|----------------------------|--------|
| North. | South. |
| h. m. | h. m. |
| 6 4-3 | 5 55-7 |
| 6 8-5 | 5 51-5 |
| 6 12-7 | 5 47-3 |
| 6 17-1 | 5 42-9 |
| 6 21-3 | 5 38-7 |
| 6 25-6 | 5 34-4 |
| 6 29-8 | 5 30-2 |
| 6 34-1 | 5 25-9 |
| 6 38-9 | 5 21-1 |
| 6 43-3 | 5 16-7 |
| 6 47-8 | 5 12-2 |
| 6 52-4 | 5 7-6 |
| 6 56-3 | 5 3-7 |
| 7 1-0 | 4 58-4 |
| 7 6-3 | 4 53-7 |
| 7 11-4 | 4 48-6 |
| 7 16-0 | 4 41-0 |
| 7 21-0 | 4 36-0 |
| 7 26-1 | 4 31-0 |
| 7 31-3 | 4 26-7 |
| 7 36-6 | 4 21-9 |
| 7 41-7 | 4 18-3 |
| 7 47-6 | 4 12-4 |
| 7 53-4 | 4 6-6 |

$$(s^2 - b^2 - 1p^2) \div 9, \text{ or } 174. \text{ Ans.}$$

$$\text{The sides} = \frac{1}{2}p$$

$$\text{Ans.}$$

$$+ p = 150. \text{ An.}$$

$$\div \sqrt{(n-q) =}$$

$$ad + bc \} \div \sqrt{}$$

$$b^2 + c^2 - 2\sqrt{}$$

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obscurities and pointed out to in the English a few problems generalize their for all similar