

division along lines running generally north-west and south-east, into three distinct prairie steppes, or plateaux, as they are generally called. The first of these is known as the Red River Valley and Lake Winnipeg plateau. The width of the boundary line is about 52 miles, and the average height about 800 feet above the sea. At the boundary line it is about 1,000 feet. The first plateau lies entirely within the Province of Manitoba, and is estimated to contain about 7,000 square miles of the best wheat-growing land on the continent, or in the world.

The second plateau or steppe has an altitude of 1,600 feet, having a width of about 250 miles on the national boundary line, and an area of about 105,000 square miles. The rich, undulating, park-like country lies in this region. This section is specially favourable for settlement, and includes the Assiniboine and Qu'Appelle districts.

The third plateau or steppe begins on the boundary line at the 104th meridian, where it has an elevation of about 2,000 feet, and extends west for 465 miles to the foot of the Rocky Mountains, where it has an altitude of about 4,200 feet, making an average height above the sea of about 3,000 feet. Generally speaking, the first two steppes are those which are most favourable for agriculture, and the third for grazing. Settlement is proceeding in the first two at a very rapid rate; and in the third plateau numerous and prosperous cattle ranches have been established.

The prairie section of the Canadian North-West, extending westward from the neighbourhood of Winnipeg to the base of the Rocky Mountains, a distance of over 800 miles, contains large tracts of the finest agricultural lands in the world. The prairie is generally rolling or undulating, with clumps of woods and lines of forest here and there. It abounds with lakes, lakelets, and running streams, in the neighbourhood of which the scenery has been described as the finest park scenery in the world.

The richness of the soil, and the salubrity of the climate, which is peculiarly adapted to the cultivation of grain and raising of stock, will assuredly cause this vast tract of country to become, in the near future, the home of millions of happy and prosperous people.

There is a generally accepted theory that the great fertility of the land in the North-West is due generally to three causes. —