

product; neighbours, experienced in all that is essential to successful progress, ready and willing to help new comers. Although experience is the best, and, in many cases, the only teacher, yet kindly advice always smooths the way. The road of a new and inexperienced comer or pioneer in a northern clime may be likened to a man who is struggling up to his waist in deep snow to reach his destination, or having his pathway trodden down for him by well-beaten trails. Such is the condition to-day throughout the larger part of Manitoba and the Territories; in fact, it may be said of the whole of Manitoba. Many who think that by moving westward they are leaving the comforts of civilization behind them, are astonished to find they are only moving into a new civilization, with opportunities that do not present themselves elsewhere. Naturally, there are greater difficulties to overcome in a northern clime, which will put the character of a man to a severe test: but it should not be forgotten that difficulties make the man, and the overcoming of those difficulties in no wise detract from his happiness or character. Except, perhaps, in one instance: It has been said of a minister of the gospel, who undertook to drive a yoke of oxen, that he expressed his opinion, "There must •be a special dispensation for those who were unfortunately compelled to plough with oxen." Notwithstanding his experience, oxen are really the poor man's friend.

Manitoba is essentially an agricultural province, with a virgin soil of varied qualities and degrees of richness. It is 400 miles due west of Lake Superior, from which it is separated by a forest belt and by what is known as the Laurentian range of rocks, which runs diagonally through Canada from the St. Lawrence River west. After passing through this belt we emerge upon a level plateau of prairie land about thirty or forty miles east of Winnipeg. The city is situated upon the Red River of the North, a long river

which rises in the United States far to the south and empties into Lake Winnipeg five and thirty miles to the north of the city of Winnipeg, and proceeds on its way to the Hudson Bay. At Winnipeg, the Assiniboine River joins the Red River. It rises in the North-West and divides Southern from Northern Manitoba, and forms a boundary in Range 29 between Manitoba and the North-West Territories. This river is the main drainage artery of Manitoba, receiving, near Brandon, the Souris River of Southern Manitoba, and, farther west, the Little Saskatchewan, Bird Tail and Shell Rivers flowing from the Riding Mountains in the north, and the Qu'Appelle River flowing from the west. The region around the city of Winnipeg for about sixty or eighty miles east and west has been the bottom of a vast lake from which the waters have receded, leaving an alluvial deposit of great richness, representing the drainage of ages. It is a comparatively level plain, with only one drawback, namely: that in a wet season the water is not drained off sufficiently rapidly. About eighty miles west of the Red River the country rises to the first of a succession of plateaus towards the Rocky Mountains, so that while Winnipeg and Eastern Manitoba are 700 feet above the level of the sea, Western Manitoba, commencing at Ranges 8 or 9 west, is from sixteen to eighteen hundred feet above the level of the sea. There are three different classes of soil in Manitoba. The rich alluvial deposits adjacent to the Red River and around the great lakes of the province is one class. South of the River Assiniboine is a large admixture of light, sandy loam, adapted to wheat, and to the north of the Assiniboine is a black loam better adapted to mixed farming, a clay sub-soil generally underlying the whole. In Southern Manitoba the Turtle and Riding Mountains supply a limited amount of timber for fuel, the prairie, as a general rule, being treeless, and in Northern Manitoba the Riding and Duck