

nearer Fort Ellice. In the vicinity of Kinbrae, the surface soil is a sandy loam with ridges of loam mixed with gravel. A well sunk here on George B. Fisher's farm, gave a section showing in descending order, one foot of sandy loam, eleven feet of clay, with a few rounded boulders in it, and thirty feet of sand, which grow coarser towards the bottom. At Langenburg, another well gave, before the sand was reached, one hundred and sixty feet of wet sticky clay, holding boulders. There was considerable difficulty in securing water at this latter place until this depth was reached. At neither place was there any appearance of layers of black loam as at Portage la Prairie and Winnipeg. The boulders here and at Birtle are relatively small, seldom exceeding two feet across, and, with the gravel, have rather the worn appearance resulting from the action of ice than the rounded look which the water on a sea or lake coast would give them. Both boulders and gravel in the neighborhood of Kinbrae are Laurentian, intermixed with some of a limestone which weathers a buff in colour. One of these larger limestone boulders was heavily striated and was, otherwise, worn smooth to the condition of a slab. Nearly all of the sloughs were dry, as a result of the drought this year, and some were, like the dry marshes near Westbourne already alluded to, dotted with the dead shells of *Limnæa* and other fresh water mollusks.

CONCLUSIONS.

The conclusions I have formed are, that the Manitoba prairies east of the Pembina and Riding mountains are the most recently formed, and are still undergoing a process of extension in the great marshes still existing and on the shallow lake margins, through the annual growth and decay of the luxuriant grasses growing there. There had been two or three depressions of the land in the course of the formation of these prairies, during each of which, deposits of sediment, carried down by the muddy northern and western rivers, were made over the loam formed by such decaying grasses, giving thus the alternate loam and clay now observable. There is no evidence to show that