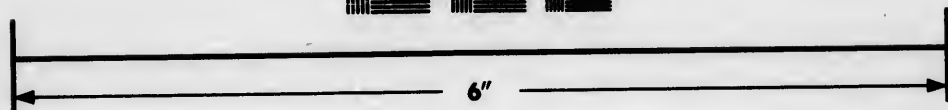
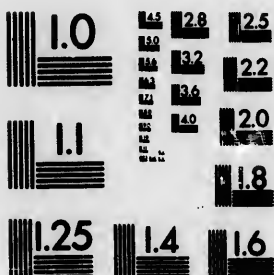


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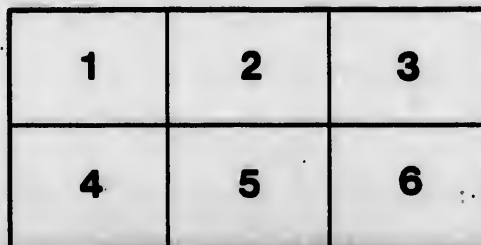
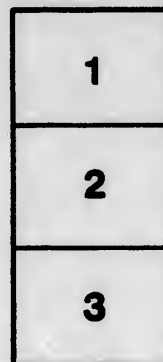
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Cf. Peel, 1996

EXTENDED NOTES

OF AN

ADDRESS

ON THE

Geography of Manitoba.

BY

HUGH McKELLAR,

Chief Clerk, Department of Agriculture and Immigration.



WINNIPEG, MAN.

HART & COMPANY, BOOKSELLERS.

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Geography of Manitoba

And How to Teach It.

Although the Geography of Manitoba is well-known to many individuals, who have travelled over the Province, yet to the majority of our own settlers, it is but little known. The following notes are arranged to direct the attention of teachers and pupils to the most practical subjects for study regarding our own Province.

1895, With a map of Manitoba, as published by the Department of Agriculture and Immigration, before the school, the first thing noticed by children will be the different blocks in different colors, and the large spaces tinted pink. The blocks are municipalities, the pink spaces are unsettled, unsurveyed, and in many places only partly explored districts. Explain what a municipality is, giving details of the one in which the pupils live, the names of the councillors and reeve. An interesting lesson or two can be given to advanced pupils touching on how the councillors are elected, and what their duties are, referring to taxes, roads, bridges, formation of school districts, etc.

On a closer examination of the map, pupils will notice that the whole Province is divided into square blocks, and you are at once into our system of survey, each block is six miles square. If possible, let pupils find out how these blocks can be located, and where the enumeration commences. Find the Principal Meridian and show the ranges east and west from the same, as shown by figures at the bottom and top of the map. There are 17 ranges to the east and 29 to the west. Then explain the township enumeration. Tp. 1 is the first strip of blocks along the south ; Tp. 2 is the second row of blocks across the map from east to west. The townships are numbered from the bottom of the map to the top, as shown by the Roman numerals on the sides of the

map. Devote a lesson to drill work, locating townships and ranges ; thus : Tp. 3, Range 5, West ; Tp. 3, R. 25, West ; Tp. 15, Range 18, West ; Tp. 17, R. 7, West ; or ask for location of Brandon, Emerson, Winnipeg, &c., by Township and Range.

This can be made interesting, and it is of much value, for all our Post Offices are located by Sec., Tp. and Range. All our lands are described as being in a certain township and range. Now comes the detailed survey of each township. The following diagrams explain themselves :—

		640 ACRES.			N	
1 MILE SQUARE.
	.. 31 32 33 34 35 36 ..

	.	School .. 29 .. Lands.	.. 28 27 ..	H. B. .. 26 .. Lands.	.. 25 ..

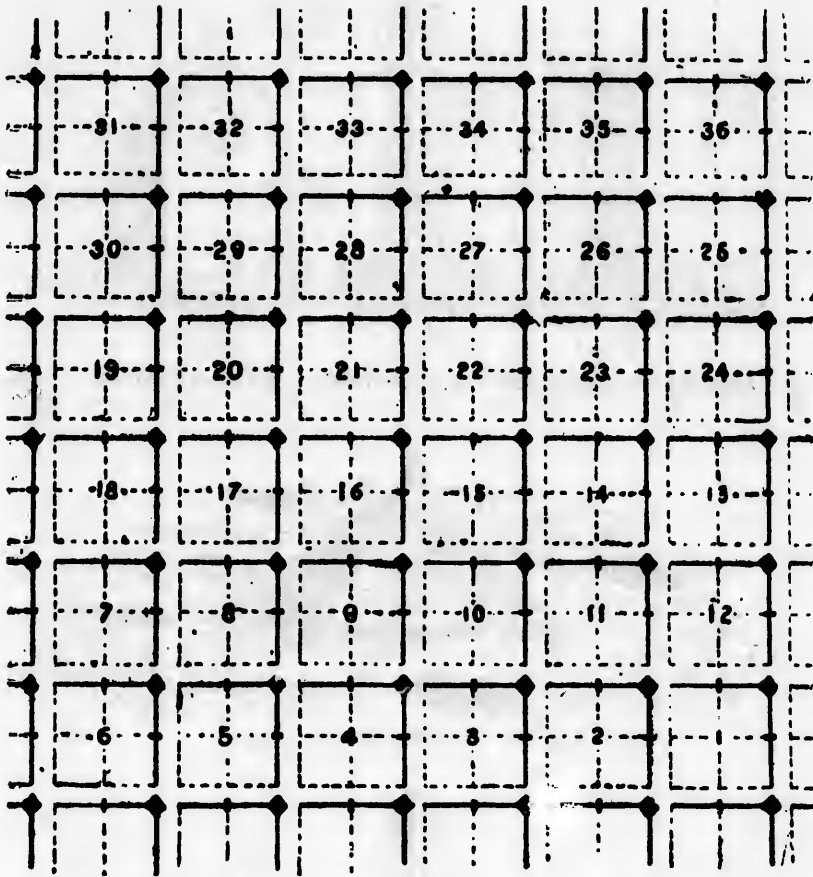
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TOWNSHIP DIAGRAM.



PO
EV



A TOWNSHIP AS SURVEYED IN MANITOBA.

The dark lines show all lines marked on the ground, with position of posts.

N. B.—Road allowances are 1 Chain 50 Links wide.

In recent surveys they are 1 chain wide and only occur every second mile, running east and west.

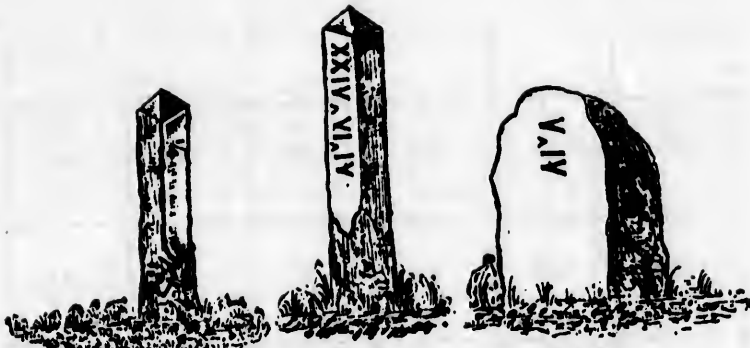


Fig 1 Quarter Section Post Fig 2 Section Post Fig 3 Stone Corner



Fig 4 Earth Mounds and Post.



Fig 6. Stone Mound.

Fig 5. Post in Mound.

Fig 7. Witness Mound.

SURVEY POSTS.

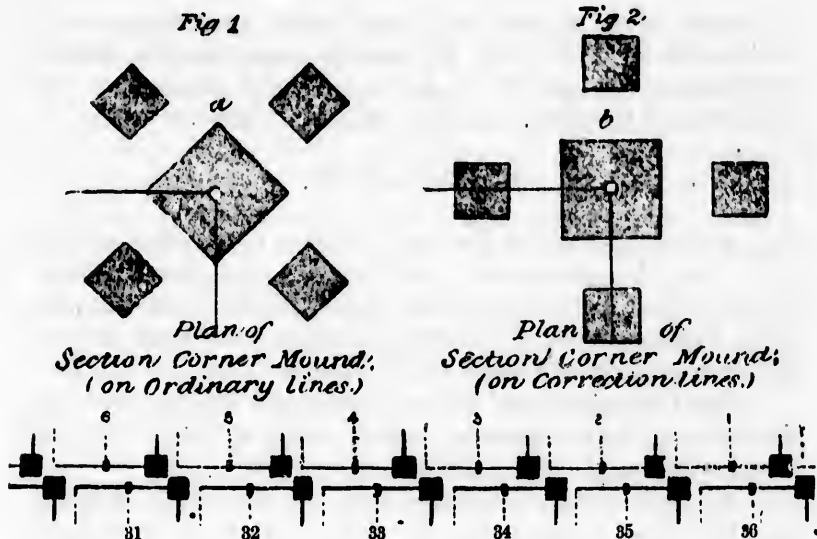
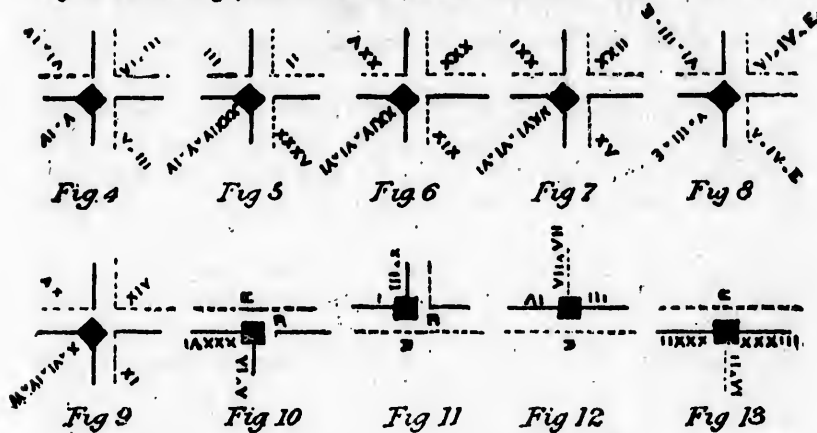


Fig 3. showing position of posts on Correction Lines.



The above afford illustrations of the method of marking the posts.

They should be carefully studied, drawn on blackboard and slates, and where possible, the pupils should be taken to examine the posts and mounds for themselves, and the markings in Roman Numerals on the corner posts explained, so that, when necessary, the pupils could tell where they are by examining a corner post.

Each block as seen on the map called a township is subdivided as on Plate 1 into 36 sections, each one mile square. Calculations can now be made by advanced pupils as to the total area of the Province, the area of our lakes, &c.

BOUNDARIES.

Article VII of the Treaty of Ghent, 1814, gives authority to the Commissioners appointed to locate the boundary between the United States and British Possessions, between Lake Huron and Lake Superior, and to the most North-Western point of the Lake of the Woods.

The Commissioners, Messrs. Porter and Barclay surveyed the same in 1826, erecting a monument to mark the said North-West angle of the Lake of the Woods.

In 1872-76, the boundary between the British Possessions in North America and the United States was completed from the N. W. angle of the Lake of the Woods to the summit of the Rocky Mountains by the Boundary Commission.

Article II of the Convention of the 20th October, 1818, under which the Boundary Commissions were constituted, is as follows :—

“It is agreed that a line drawn from the most North-Western point of the Lake of the Woods, along the 49th parallel of north latitude, or, if the said point shall not be in the 49th parallel of north latitude, then, that a line drawn from the said point due north or south, as the case may be, until the said line shall intersect the said parallel of north latitude, and from the point of such intersection due west along and with the said parallel, shall be the line of demarcation between the territories of His Britannic Majesty, and those of the United States, and that the said line shall form the southern boundary of the said territories of His Britannic Majesty, and the northern boundary of the territories of the United States from the Lake of the Woods to the Stony (Rocky) Mountains.”

The Boundary Commissioners found that the N. W. angle of the Lake of the Woods, as surveyed in 1826, was north of the 49th parallel of north latitude—see map—and at once traced a meridian line southwards to the 49th parallel. This lesson will enable any teacher to explain why the U. S. Territory juts northward to the N. W. angle of the Lake of the Woods and then drops down to the 49th parallel.

The Boundaries of Manitoba defined by Act of Parliament in 1881, are as follows :—

“Commencing at the intersection of the International Boundary dividing Canada from the United States of America by the centre of the road allowance between the twenty-ninth and thirtieth ranges of townships lying west of the first principal meridian in the system of Dominion land surveys ; thence northerly, following up the said centre of the said road allowance as the same is or may hereafter be located, defining the said range line on the ground across townships one to forty-four, both inclusive, to the intersection of the said centre of the said road allowance by the centre of the road allowance on the twelfth base line in the said system of Dominion land surveys ; thence easterly along the said centre of the road allowance on the twelfth base line, following the same to its intersection by the easterly limit of the district of Keewatin, as defined by the Act thirty-ninth Victoria, Chapter twenty-one, that is to say to a point where the said centre of the road allowance on the twelfth base line would be intersected by a line drawn due north from where the westerly boundary of the Province of Ontario intersects the aforesaid International Boundary line dividing Canada from the United States of America ; thence due south, following upon the said line to the International Boundary aforesaid, and thence westerly, following upon the said International Boundary line dividing Canada from the United States of America to the place of beginning.”

Note the “jogs” of survey clearly seen on the western boundary of the Province. If the meridian lines were run due north, they would approach each other towards the north pole, on account of the spherical shape of the earth. The jogs are therefore made to correct the measurements. At each correction line townships again start with an exact measurement of six-miles for the southern base.

Between townships 2 and 3 is the first correction line ; between townships 6 and 7 is the second correction line, &c., &c.

Notice the dotted line from the N. W. angle of the Lake of the Woods to Winnipeg. This is the old Dawson route, overland, travelled by Colonel Wolseley and his men to quell the Red River Rebellion, although the part shown on map from the Lake of the Woods to Winnipeg was not used by Colonel Wolseley personally, as he went down the Winnipeg River to Lake Winnipeg, coming in by the Red River.

Another dotted line is seen from Gladstone to Fort Ellice and from Russell, north and east, by the Valley River to the Dauphin settlement. These are old trails followed by Hudson's Bay Co. traders.

PHYSICAL FEATURES.

Glance along the bottom of the map to range 4 west, and you will notice a continued line, with a dotted line close to it, running in a north-westerly direction, follow it past Morden on to Miami and Rathwell; a break occurs here until you cross the Assiniboine. You find it again west of Portage la Prairie, running westerly to Arden, and then north, following the contour of the Riding and Duck Mountains, and still further north on the east of the Porcupine Hills. This is the west coast line of what was at one time a lake.

Now look to the bottom of the map again in range 4 east, and you will find similar lines running north until near St. Anne de Chene. This is the eastern shore of the same lake. Between these, occupying one-half of Manitoba and including our present great lakes was at one time the bed of one vast lake. Agassiz was the first on this continent to work out the theory of land ice as a great agent in the glacial period of changing the face of the country, and in honor of the great scientist, this old glacial lake has been designated Lake Agassiz. To-day we call all this basin or bottom of the great lake the "Red River Valley."

To the west of the Red River Valley the land rises gradually in some places while in other places it rises very abruptly.

The elevation from the Boundary north is called the Pembina Mountains. In the centre of the Province to the west is the Riding Mountains and further north Duck Mountain and Porcupine Hills.

On the southern boundary, ranges 18 to 23, we have the Turtle Mountains, extending from six to ten miles into Manitoba. To the north-west of Turtle Mountain there was another great glacial lake known as Lake Souris. This originally flowed into the Red River by way of Souris River to the elbow, thence by way of Lang's Valley, through Pelican Lake and Rock Lake and down the valley of the Pembina River.

To the east of the Red River Valley, there are no high elevations. The rise of land is called "The Ridge," and extends from the Boundary to Brokenhead and east of Lake Winnipeg.

ELEVATIONS OF MOUNTAINS.

Pembina Mountains.—The elevation of the ancient lake beach on the west may be given as 1,000 feet above the sea level. The eastern slope of the Pembina Mountains rises from 150 to 300 feet in two or three miles, and then the land continues to rise to range 20, where the altitude is 1,659 feet above the sea level; it falls again as you go west to the Souris River. The elevations are seen on the map under the names of towns or stations on the railroads.

Riding Mountains.—Ascending the Riding Mountains from the south you can scarcely notice the ascent; but on the northern slope or to the east, the escarpment is very abrupt, in some places rising 1,000 feet in a few miles. The highest elevation is 2,000 feet above the sea.

Duck Mountain is an irregular three-cornered mountain with very abrupt sides, and having an elevation of from 2,000 to 2,500 feet above the sea.

LAKES.

By glancing at the map the lakes are noticed in the northern part of the Province and extending well down to the centre. The largest are Lake Winnipeg, with its long stretches and lake expansions to the south and east, Lake Manitoba, near the centre of the Province, and extending north and west, and Lake Winnipegosis, with its many bays and inlets. Smaller lakes in the Province are Dauphin, Rock Lake, Pelican, Whitewater, Swan, Shoal and St. Martins.

The District on the east of the map tinted pink and extending westward to include range 9 and even ranges 8, 7 and 6 in some parts, is a rough broken country, full of bogs and rocks and partially covered with forests of small trees. The whole of the land east of Lake Winnipeg is somewhat similar. It is generally unfit for settlement. The tamarac and jack pine firewood brought into Winnipeg by the C.P.R. from the east is cut along the line of railroad from Selkirk to Rennie. Much valuable timber is found lying inland from the shores of Lake Winnipeg.

In the Red River Valley, west of Red River, is open prairie ; bluffs and belts of timber are, however, found north of Morden, extending through to Carman and on to Portage la Prairie. From the rise of the Pembina Mountains westward to the Pembina River and extending northward is a park-like district of rolling prairies, having clumps and bluffs of trees, and in some parts belts of timber for miles, and having large tracts of open prairie between them.

South of the Pembina River, and extending west to the bounds of the Province, south of the Souris, and then northwards to the Assiniboine, is almost open prairie, undulating and well drained by ravines, having only a few trees on the banks of the rivers.

The slope of the Riding Mountain from the south is dotted with timber, which becomes thicker and heavier as you go north, until the whole of the mountain is covered with a thick growth, principally poplar and spruce.

Standing on the Duck Mountains, or on the high north-eastern point of the Riding Mountain, you are over 1,000 feet above the plains to the east. Imagine that you have a glass sufficiently powerful to see away to Lake Winnipeg, and you have a most picturesque view of lakes, lagoons, open prairies, rivers and bluffs of timber interspersed in endless variety.

WATER SHEDS AND WATER SYSTEM OF MANITOBA.

The water sheds and water system of Manitoba are very simple. Take a few elevations, as shown on the map:—

Harrowby, in Russell Municipality ..	1567	ft.
Brandon	1169	"
Melita, in Arthur Municipality	1886	"
Emerson	768	"
Winnipeg	733	"
Lake Dauphin	810	"
Lake Manitoba	782	"
Lake St. Martin	737	"
Lake Winnipeg	682	"

And it will readily be seen that the rivers of Manitoba naturally flow to Lake Winnipeg.

The historic Red River, rising in Minnesota, runs north, entering Manitoba in range 2, east. It flows almost due north to Winnipeg, and then a little to the east of north, until it empties into Lake Winnipeg. It is the largest river in the Province, is navigable to the United States boundary and far south into Minnesota. The St. Andrew's Rapids, in time of low water, is the only obstacle to regular steamboat traffic from Lake Winnipeg to the States. This river gives its name to the district through which it runs—"The Red River Valley." As the land is very flat, or level, there are no steep banks, simply a channel cut through the soil. During high water, once a year, when snow and ice melt, the channel fills and occasionally overflows for miles over the prairies. The channel is from 100 to 150 yards wide, and although the fall from Emerson to Winnipeg is only 35 feet, the current with such a volume of water is quite strong.

The Assiniboine, with its tributaries, drains all the western and south-central parts of the Province. It rises in Saskatchewan, runs south and east through Assiniboia, and enters Manitoba in township 26. It runs south, skirting the western boundary within the Province for over 80 miles, and then trends more to the east, until, in township 10, it turns almost due east. After leaving Brandon, it makes a great bend to the south, down to township 7, but again trends to the north, emptying into the Red River at Winnipeg. It is called a navigable stream. Boats, in early days, have gone to Fort Ellice, but the tortuous nature of the channel from Brandon to Winnipeg, renders navigation virtually impracticable. All the streams on the southern slope of the Riding Mountains flow into the Assiniboine. These are the Shell, Bird Tail, Arrow and Little Saskatchewan Rivers. The Qu'Appelle flows into it from the west at Fort Ellice, while the Souris, with its tributaries, draining the south-western part of the Province, joins the Assiniboine in Tp. 8, Range 16.

The Pembina River :—Several small streams rise in the Turtle Mountains, and flowing eastward, meet the overflow from Pelican Lake and pass on through Lakes Lorne and Louise to Rock Lake. The Badger, which has been joined by Long River, flows into Rock Lake from the south-west. The Pembina River proper flows from the east end of Rock Lake. Its course is easily followed north and east to Swan Lake, thence south and east, leaving the Province in range 6

west. It continues eastward through Dakota and empties into the Red River at Pembina, just south of the Boundary.

From the east, flowing into the Red River, are the Roseau and Rat Rivers. The Brokenhead and Winnipeg Rivers flow into Lake Winnipeg from the east. One water system remains, that in connection with Lakes Dauphin, Winnipegosis and Manitoba.

The high elevations of Riding and Duck Mountains make a water shed, rivers flowing to the south or to the north and east.

Into Lake Dauphin flow the Ochre, Vermillion, Wilson and Valley Rivers. Lake Dauphin empties northward through Mossy River into Lake Winnipegosis. Between Duck Mountains and the Porcupine Hills, in a rich valley, are the Swan and Woody Rivers, flowing into Swan Lake, thence into Dawson Bay, part of Lake Winnipegosis.

Lake Winnipegosis empties by the northern branch of the Water Hen River, into an expanse called the Water Hen Lake, thence through the southern branch of the Water Hen River into Lake Manitoba.

The southern, and by far the greater part of Lake Manitoba, flows northward through the narrows, meeting the waters from the north and flow eastward through Fairford River into St. Martin Lake, thence by the Little Saskatchewan into Lake Winnipeg. A small sluggish stream called the Icelandic River, often mentioned in connection with the Icelandic settlement on its banks, flows into Lake Winnipeg from the west.

NOTES.

(a) Glance at the Winnipeg River. It receives its waters from the Lake of the Woods and English River. Flowing through a rugged rocky district it has a channel in many places of solid rock. It carries an immense volume of sparkling, pure, soft water. Mark the bend that approaches nearest to Winnipeg, there are many rapids between that bend and the mouth of the river at Lake Winnipeg. It is mooted that the water supply for Winnipeg may at some future time be brought from some point on the bend of this river.

The upper part of Lake Winnipegosis (not shown on the map) is only separated from Cedar Lake, through which the waters of the great Saskatchewan flow, by a narrow neck of land, some six miles wide. All the waters of Manitoba unite in Lake Winnipeg with those of the Saskatchewan, and flow out through the Nelson River to Nelson Bay on the Hudson Bay.

(b) As the immense fields of ice of the glacial period gradually melted on the south, the waters, forced to find a way of escape, cut into the soil, forming the channel of the Assiniboine, a natural depression between what is now called the Riding Mountains and the elevated land south and west of Brandon. Torrents of water must have rushed down the Assiniboine, as well as its branches, the Shell River, the Bird Tail and the Little Saskatchewan, the banks of which are alike high and strewn with boulders. The soil, mould and shale having been chiselled out and washed away by the force of the rushing waters, were carried down and deposited as silt in Lake Agassiz, forming part of the rich alluvial loam, so well known in the Red River Valley. The clay thrown out of sewers 10 feet deep in Winnipeg to-day, when left to dry, can be separated with a table knife into layers like the leaves of a book, showing that it was formed by continuous layers of sediment, washed down ages ago.

The Valley of the Pembina River had its origin in a similar manner, being the outlet of Lake Souris, as already explained. The valleys of the Wilson and Valley Rivers were formed at a later date, as the ice fields receded northwards.

CLIMATE.

The climate of Manitoba, given briefly as follows, may lead to many interesting discussions:—A sharp, frosty winter, with thermometer dropping, at rare times, to 40 degrees below zero, with no thaw from the 1st of November to the beginning of March. The sun's rays then gradually melt the snow, which had fallen to the depth of 18 inches, and by the 1st of April all the snow is gone. April and May—Spring weather, dry for seeding. June—The rainy month, supposed to rain nearly every day in the month; enormous growth of vegetation. July—Showers; great growth continues. August—Ripening of harvest. September—Harvest; no more rain for the season. October—Frosts at night, gradual-

ly hardening, until the frost-bound fetters are once more upon us, by the 1st November.

Now, although true for some seasons as a whole, and applicable to many parts of the season each year, yet it is generally admitted that any one, and even all the conditions may be changed. We have had a thaw in January, rain in February, snow in April and May, no rain in June, continued wet weather in September, even until the snow-fall in November.

However, the fact remains that we have clear, cold weather in winter, with a very dry bracing atmosphere, that our spring time in April and May is delightful, that June and July give us our summer rains, our pastures and hay, and the promise of our great crops, that August and September see our hay and harvest safely gathered into stacks, and October prepares us for winter.

The influence of the broken land and forest to the east of the Red River, the great extent of lake surface all surrounded by belts of timber in the north, as well as the bluffs and belts of timber in the central parts of the Province, and especially on the mountain elevations, have a most beneficial effect on the rain fall. It is only the south-western part, the part most removed from forest and lake influences, that in some seasons suffers from the hot winds that sweep northward from the great desert of Nebraska and the Dakotas.

The Lake Dauphin district east of the Riding Mountains and nestled in between the high elevations of Riding and Duck Mountains is influenced by the vast expanse of shallow lakes to the east which are warmed by the sun's rays in the day time, throwing off much heat at night, thus keeping the temperature more even. It is also protected by the Mountains breaking the cold winds from the west.

THE SOIL.

The soil of Manitoba in the Red River Valley is a rich black loam, varying from 3 to 10 feet deep, very rich in nitrogen, phosphates and potash, the elements necessary for plant food. This soil, as already explained, has been formed by deposits washed down from higher elevations, while the Red River Valley was all a Lake or Inland Sea. On the escarpments of the Mountain elevations are found numerous boulders ; ravines leading down to valleys, are in most places

full of stones. The black soil on the upland varies from one to five feet deep. In some places gravel ridges are found and shale crops out on the banks of many ravines. In the south-west of the Province, west of Souris, we find a light sandy loam, which continues to get lighter until the borders of the Province are reached ; this is the northern extension of the great Desert of America.

PRODUCTS.

Original :Furs of Wild Animals:—Buffalo, Bear, Moose, Elk, Wolf, Lynx, Fox, Beaver, Otter, Mink, Muskrat.

Present :—Wheat, Oats, Barley, Vegetables, Small Fruits, Horses, Cattle, Sheep, Hogs, Poultry, Dairy Products, Fish, also the furs of all the wild animals, except the Buffalo.

Glance with me once more at the map in Township 1, Ranges 23 and 24, you see the small blocks colored black. These represent sections where coal has been found.

Settlers in sinking wells for water struck the coal seams. Settlers in the vicinity obtain coal here for their own use. The coal mines proper are further west, located at the second crossing of the Souris. The railroad is built thereto, and the coal is put on board cars at the mouth of the shaft and carried to all parts of the Province.

The shores of Lake Winnipeg abound with iron ore.

Salt springs are abundant on the shores of Lake Winnipegosis.

Exports :—Wheat, Beef Cattle, Hogs, Butter, Cheese, Furs and Fish.

Imports :—Agricultural Machinery, Wagons, Binding Twine, Coal Oil, Hardware, Dry Goods, Boots and Shoes, Groceries, Medicines, Dry and Green Fruits, etc., etc.

RAILROADS.

That part of the Province already settled is well supplied with railroads, having five separate Railway Corporations.

The Canadian Pacific Railroad (C. P. R.)

The Northern Pacific and Manitoba (N. P. & M.)

The Manitoba and North-Western (M. & N. W.)

The Great North-West Central (G. N. W. C.)

The Lake Manitoba Railway and Canal Co.

The Main Line of the C. P. R. entering the Province from the east in Township 10, can be followed on the map to East Selkirk, thence down to Winnipeg and away west to

Portage la Prairie, Brandon, Virden, leaving the Province west of Elkhorn, in Township 12. A Branch Line runs from Winnipeg to Emerson on the east side of the Red River.

The Pembina Mountain Branch runs south from Winnipeg to Rosenfeldt Junction, and thence west through Southern Manitoba to Morden, Manitou, Pilot Mound, Crystal City, Killarney, Boissevain, Deloraine, on to Napinka.

The Glenboro Branch runs south-west from Winnipeg to Carman, thence to Glenboro and on to Souris.

A short branch runs from Winnipeg north to West Selkirk. Another short branch to Stonewall.

A branch runs from Brandon to Souris, Napinka, Melita and westward to the Coal Mines at Estevan, in Assiniboia. Another short branch line runs from Souris to Reston, in the Pipestone district.

A short line extends from Rosenfeldt to Gretna.

The N. P. & M. enters the Province from the south at West Lynne and follows the west bank of the Red River to Winnipeg. A branch runs from Winnipeg to Portage la Prairie south of the Assiniboine. Another branch runs from Morris to Brandon.

The M. & N. W. runs from Portage la Prairie in a north-western direction to Neepawa, Minnedosa, Binscarth, &c., leaving the Province west of Harrowby in Township 21. A short branch runs from Minnedosa to Rapid City, operated by the M. & N. W., which is called the Saskatchewan and Western Railroad.

The G. N. W. C. runs from Chater, six miles east of Brandon, northward to Rapid City, and thence west to Arrowton.

The Lake Manitoba Railway and Canal Co., known as the Dauphin Railway, runs from Gladstone, in a north and north-westerly direction for 100 miles into the rich Dauphin district. The total railway mileage in the Province is 1,536 miles.

The towns on these lines of railway can be learned from the map. Yes! they should be learned and the junctions of the different roads specially noted. Thus:—What Junction at Morris? What at Portage la Prairie? At Souris?

It is of far more importance to the youth of Manitoba to know the railway junctions, the municipalities and the towns in our own Province than to know the volcanoes of Central America, or the towns on the Danube. Glancing at the

towns along the railroads, the figures inside the circle indicate how many elevators for grain storage are located at that point.

CITIES AND TOWNS.

Winnipeg, the capital of the Province, is situated at the confluence of the Assiniboine and Red Rivers on the site of Old Fort Garry. It has a population of 40,000. It is the seat of the Local Government of the Province, and of the Provincial Courts. It is the commercial, banking, legal and educational centre of the Province. Its principal buildings are the Government Buildings, Court House, City Hall, Post Office, Manitoba Hotel, General Hospital, Deaf and Dumb Institute, wholesale houses, churches, colleges and schools, with many fine business blocks, as well as many beautiful private residences. It has an efficient electric street car service, water works, electric and gas light and telephone service.

St. Boniface, on the east side of the Red River, opposite Winnipeg, has a population of 2,000. It has always retained its French element in supremacy. It has a fine Hospital, College, Academy, Convents.

Brandon, 133 miles west of Winnipeg, on the main line of the C. P. R., has a population of 6,000. It is situated on the south side of the Assiniboine, beautifully located on the sloping bank. It is noted for its elevators and mills, its water works, fine streets, town hall and post office. To the north-east along the Assiniboine is the Brandon Asylum, and to the north-west the Government Experimental Farm.

Portage la Prairie, 56 miles west of Winnipeg, has a population of 3,500. Its public buildings are the Home for Incurables, its mills and elevators. It is the market place for the immense wheat crops that grow and ripen on the Portage Plains.

Morden, a busy little town on the Pembina branch of the C. P. R., has a hospital, registry office and a number of elevators.

INHABITANTS.

A description of the early settlers, the Hudson Bay Traders and the present inhabitants verges so closely on history that we shall only touch upon these very interesting points.

The original inhabitants were Indians, over 10,000 are still resident in Manitoba. They have reserves in different

parts of the Province, and are hardly ever seen off their reserves. The principal reserves are located on the map with the letters **I.R.**

These reserves have been set apart under several Treaties by the Dominion Government. Indian Inspector E. McColl, of Winnipeg, visits each reserve at least once a year, and not only distributes food, clothing, tools, seed grain, potatoes, &c., but encourages them to undertake the cultivation of land for their own benefit.

The Hudson Bay Company's Traders next claim our attention. Some of these married the native Indian women. Their descendants are now with us generally known as Half-Breeds. In many instances after continued intermarriage with white settlers and with the influence of civilization, schools, &c., the distinguishing characteristics are no longer noticeable. Some of our best citizens, energetic, successful men and women have traces of Indian blood in their veins.

Shortly after Manitoba became one of the Provinces of the Dominion, we have the rush of Canadians, of English, Irish, Scotch, French, Mennonite, Icelandic and Scandinavian settlers. Distinct colonies of some of these were formed and they still maintain their customs and language, although gradually giving way to the all prevailing power of the English language, English laws, customs, etc.

The principal Colonies are :—Mennonites in Rhineland ; Icelanders, on the shores of Lake Winnipeg and Lake Manitoba, in Argyle and in the Pipestone District ; Scandinavians in Huns Valley, North of Minnedosa ; Crofters, near Pelican Lake ; while many Jews as well as a number of Icelanders and Scandinavians located in Winnipeg.

The total population of the Province to-day is estimated in round numbers to be 200,000.

OCCUPATION OF SETTLERS.

The chief occupation of the settlers is farming. The wealth of the people is taken from the soil. Cities, towns and villages are directly dependent upon the produce of the lands. Our lakes abound in fish, and at certain seasons of the year a limited number find employment at our fisheries.

In conclusion, the topics touched upon and the facts given herein should furnish subject matter for many interesting discussions in the school-room. Such discussions are of much more value to pupils than any memorizing of geographical names.

