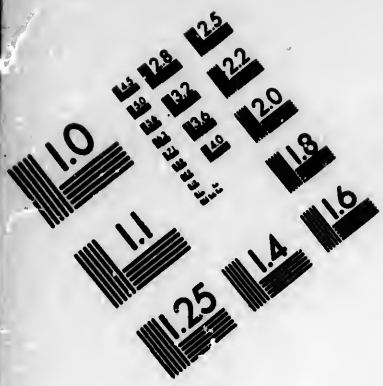

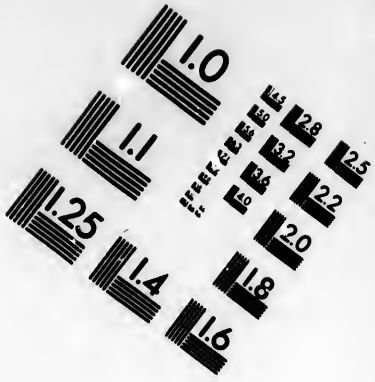

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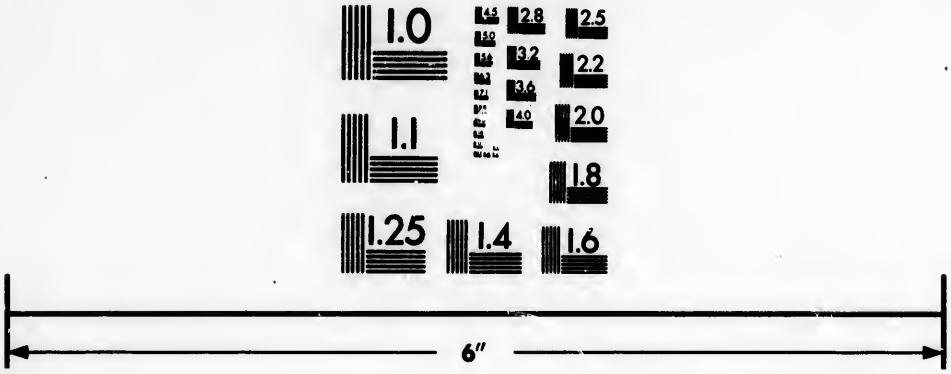

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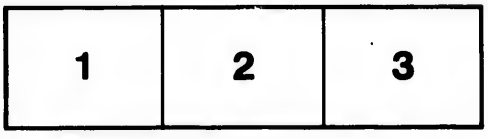

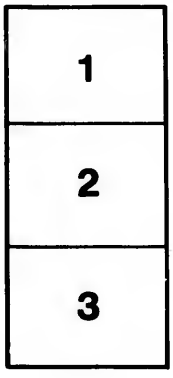

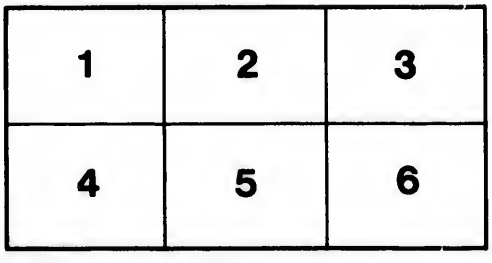

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SECOND REVISED EDITION.

THE PRAIRIE LANDS OF CANADA;

PRESENTED TO THE WORLD AS

A NEW AND INVITING FIELD OF ENTERPRISE

FOR THE CAPITALIST,

AND

NEW SUPERIOR ATTRACTIONS AND ADVANTAGES

AS A

HOME FOR IMMIGRANTS

COMPARED WITH THE WESTERN PRAIRIES OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE ELEMENTS OF OUR FUTURE GREATNESS AND PROSPERITY.

CONTENTS:

Introductory.—What Capital can do.—What Pluck and Muscle may do.—Geographical Position and Extent.—Canadian Pacific Railway.—Beauty and Fertility of the Country.—Official and Scientific Testimony.—Comparison with the Western States.—Salubrity of Climate and adaption to Agriculture.—The Soil and its Agricultural Capacities.—Frosts.—Inducements offered by our Prairie Lands to Settlers.—Building Timber, Fuel and Fencing.—Information on Tree Culture.—Coal and Peat.—Mineral Resources. Wheat Growing.—Stock Raising, Sheep and Wool Growing.—Dairy Farming.—Utilizing the Buffalo.—Fruits.—Flax.—Hemp.—Bees.—Game.—Fish.—Principal Rivers, and Points best suited for Primary Settlement.—The Colony System of Emigrating.—Outfit and Prices.—Routes.—Private Lands.—Conclusion.—Provisions respecting Public Lands.—Homestead and Tree Planting.

BY THOMAS SPENCE,

CLERK OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA.

Montreal:

PRINTED AT THE GAZETTE PRINTING HOUSE.

1880.

1880
(85)

REGISTERED ACCORDING TO ACT OF PARLIAMENT OF CANADA, A. D. 1879.

BY THOMAS SPENCE.

IN THE OFFICE OF THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AT OTTAWA.

To the Right Honorable

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD, K.C.B., &c., &c.,

Member of Her Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council,

PREMIER

AND

MINISTER of the INTERIOR

OF THE

DOMINION OF CANADA.

Ducit Amor Patriæ.

ST. BONIFACE, MANITOBA,
January, 1879.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS
ON PREVIOUS ESSAYS.

THE SASKATCHEWAN AND THE NORTH-WEST OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA, &c., &c.

FROM THE CHICAGO INTER-OCEAN.

Mr. Spence has shown himself an admirable special pleader on behalf of that vast portion of Canada, and we must admit, although he does draw comparisons somewhat unfavorable to the Western States and Territories of the Union, that he is ready, with chapter and verse, for every fact which he puts forth. Canada's maxim now is: Build railways, and the country will soon be settled. She is now building her Canadian Pacific Railway, which will run for a thousand miles through that rich and beautiful country. This is a very shrewd dodge upon the part of our slow, but sure, neighbour across the line, and we do not doubt that, by the dissemination of such pamphlets as this of Mr. Spence, the hopes of the projectors will, in process of time, be realized. He goes minutely into a description of the entire fertile country, and, besides, gives a vast amount of information valuable and necessary for intending emigrants.—*Chicago Inter-Ocean, June* 16, 1877.

MANITOBA AND THE NORTH-WEST—ITS RESOURCES, &c., &c.

BY THOMAS SPENCE.

The author throws himself heartily into his subject, and, from his several years residence in the North-West and general information, has qualified himself to handle it effectively. All who take an interest in our new region should procure and study it. We can endorse the compliment paid to it by the late Lieutenant-Governor, Mr. Archibald, as follows:

"I have read Mr. Spence's pamphlet, entitled 'Manitoba and the North-West,' with much interest. It draws the comparison with much force and discrimination and altogether the pamphlet is a valuable contribution on the subject of the North-West, and of particular value to the intending emigrant."—*Ottawa Times*, 1874.

MANITOBA AND ITS RESOURCES, &C., &C.

This, with the result of personal experience and observation, is by far the most valuable publication upon Manitoba, and most practical, as well as the most reliable means of conveying information for the guidance of the immigrant. It has received the highest enconiums from the late Sir George Cartier and others.—*Ottawa Free Press, May*, 1874.

THE PRAIRIE LANDS OF CANADA,

By THOMAS SPENCE, Clerk Legislative Assembly of Manitoba.

"The Prairie Lands of Canada."—A pamphlet with this title, from the pen of Mr. Thomas Spence, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Manitoba, will shortly be issued. The known ability of this gentleman for compiling and making attractive the facts, which a long residence in Our West and keen powers of observation present to him, are a guarantee that this work will be as valuable and popular as all his former efforts in the same direction have been. Since the publication of "Manitoba and its Resources," by Mr. Spence, the circumstances of the establishment of a Government in the great uncircumscribed North-West, and the increasing activities of emigration ever Westward, have enlarged the field of observation for writers on the subject, and the present work proves how fully capable the author is of doing justice to the task. The former treatise referred to received the commendation of all the public men of the country, as the best book that had appeared on the subject, and became the accepted book of reference on Manitoba with the public. We are confident that the success of the present work will even outrun that of the earlier, and we predict that it must become the standard book of reference on the subject. Every one who has anything of national spirit should have a copy.—*Montreal Gazette.*

PREFACE.

TO THE INTENDING EMIGRANT.

The time having arrived when Canada may fairly invite immigration from all parts of the Old World, to her vast and magnificent Prairie Lands of the North-West; presenting a new and vast field for prosperous settlement and commercial enterprise; within twelve to fourteen days' travel of Liverpool and as many minutes communication by telegraph from nearly all parts of the world, to the heart of this rich country. Already that great civilizer of this century, the locomotive, is rapidly pushing forward the completion of our great national work, the Canadian Pacific Railway, and now connects the Commercial centre of Manitoba with the whole Railway system of the Continent.

No longer will the Prairie Lands of the United States occupy the attention of the whole world. Canada can now cry aloud in every language to millions: Every one that wants a farm, come and take one, where you may enjoy health, happiness and freedom under the flag "that's braved a thousand years," and where the industrious will soon attain that end to which all men aspire, INDEPENDENCE.

The ancient maxim has been "Settle up the country, and the people will build railways if they want them;" Canada's new and better maxim is now "Build railways and the country will soon be settled," and she is now building a railway from the Atlantic to the Pacific one thousand miles of which will run through the centre of this fertile prairie country.

No longer need the unwary emigrant be led astray by the influences of glowing advertisements and floods of pamphlets in every language, and the *kind offer* of free railway passages, to induce him to invest his little all, in almost valueless railway lands in the far Western States and Territories of America—this guide is offered to the intending emigrant that he may pause and consider well, before deciding that momentous question in his life, where shall I emigrate to? for his own and his family's best future interests. It will be sent to any address, on application to the Government Immigration Agents of Canada in Europe, named at the end. The information which it embraces will be also found generally useful and valuable to the immigrant after his arrival in the new home.

The future citizen of the North-West of Canada will have Norse, Celtic and Saxon blood in his veins. His countenance, in the *pure, dry*, electric air, will be as fresh as the morning. His muscles will be iron, his nerves steel. Vigor will characterize his very action; for climate gives quality to the blood, strength to the muscles, power to the brain. Indolence is characteristic of people living in the tropics, and energy of those in temperate zones.

To the emigrant from the Old World the crossing of the Ocean is an act of emancipation; but it fires him with new hopes and aspirations.

> "Here the free spirit of mankind at length
> Throws its last fetters off, and who shall place
> A limit to the giant's unchained strength,
> Or club his swiftness in the forward race?"

The humble, but practical purpose of this publication will have been secured if it shall help to make the vast fertile prairies of the North-West of the Dominion, better known, both at home and abroad.

Situated where the great stream of human life will pour its mightiest flood, beneficiently endowed with nature's riches, and illumed by such a light, there will be no portion of all earth's domain surpassing in glory and grandeur the future of Canada's North-West.

ST. BONIFACE, MANITOBA,
January 1879.

T. S.

INTRODUCTORY.

"Let us depart! the universal sun
Confines not to one land his blessed beams;
Nor is man rooted like a tree, whose seed
The winds on some ungenial soil have cast
There where it cannot prosper."

SOUTHEY.

It may be confidently stated to-day, that no where is to be found so inviting a field for Immigration as that of the vast and magnificent Prairies of the North West of the Dominion of Canada, none with greater undeveloped wealth, or with such prospect of rapid development, now presented to the intending emigrant or the capitalist who desires to reap the reward of industry and enterprise; one, which in comparison with the Western States of America, or the more distant colonies of Australia and New Zealand, has many superior attractions and advantages.

A celebrated missionary who crossed the Rocky Mountains from British Columbia, eastward to the head waters of the south branch of the Saskatchewan River, and passed along the eastern base of the mountains to Edmonton, characterizes the country as an ocean of "prairies," and thus wrote his reflections:—

"Are these vast and innumerable rich fields of hay for ever destined to be consumed by fire or perish in the autumnal snows? Can it be that they are doomed to remain for ever inactive? Not so. The day will come when some laboring hand will give them value. A strong, active, and enterprising people are destined to fill this spacious void. The wild beasts will, ere long, give place to our domestic animals; flocks and herds will graze in the beautiful meadows that border the numberless mountains, hills, valleys, and plains of this extensive region."

Happily, the dream and earnest wish of this good missionary is now at last a realized fact.

The commencement of the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, now being vigorously prosecuted to connect the Atlantic and Pacific through British Territory, a branch of which, lately completed, gives us direct communication by rail with all parts of the continent. Canada can, therefore, now claim her rank as among the first of competitors for the hardy and enterprising emigrants of all nations, offering to them free, and happy homes, health and prosperity.

To illustrate the rapidity of the development of this new country, it is only necessary to state that the City of Winnipeg, the capital of Manitoba, and the gateway to the Prairie Lands of the North-West, situated immediately opposite the Railway Terminus at St. Boniface, and which but seven years ago was a mere hamlet, already contains a population of over 8,000, with elegant and substantial public buildings, churches, places of business, &c., and with St. Boniface rapidly following in its footsteps, it may well have surprised an American gentleman in St. Paul, Minnesota, who two years since visited this country and who

was somewhat surprised to find the amount of British go-aheadism in a land he had previously heard of only as a wilderness, thus writes to his old home in the East to remove the erroneous impression, that St. Paul, in Minnesota, is the extreme corner of habitable creation. He says:

"No better grain growing country exists than extends from 500 miles North and 600 miles West, while 1500 miles North-West from this city streams are open and pasturage is green a full month earlier than here. Nor is this vast North-West of Canada unapproachable. You can to-day take rail from here to the Northern Pacific crossing of the Red River, and there take your choice of seven steamboats, of from 300 to 600 tons each, to Fort Garry, Manitoba. At Fort Garry take a lake propeller (like those on Lake Erie and other Eastern lakes) through Lake Winnipeg to its Northern end, 275 to 300 miles, then take a river steamer and go up the Saskatchewan and its Northern branch to Fort Edmonton and beyond, 1400 miles, or within 450 or 500 miles of the waters of the Pacific Ocean, and when you get there (Edmonton) you can go ashore and telegraph the same day to your home in the Connecticut valley, or the Berkshire hills in England. These are facts, the wires are up, and the boats are running."

Since that time, steamboat travelling on the Red River is no necessary.

It is at least food for honest pride that Canadian enterprize is actively and rapidly developing this land of promise, causing astonishment.

One of the most eminent of American statesmen, the late Hon. William Seward, at the time Prime Minister of the United States, thus writes his impressions of Canada, fifteen years ago, since which time she has developed herself under one Federal Government into a country greater in extent than even the United States. He wrote the following words:

"Hitherto, in common with most of my countrymen, as I suppose, I have thought Canada, or, to speak more accurately, British America, a mere strip lying north of the United States, easily detached from the Parent State, but incapable of sustaining itself, and therefore ultimately, nay right soon to be taken on by the Federal Union, without materially changing or affecting its own development. I have dropped the opinion as a national conceit. I see in British North America, stretching as it does across the continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and occupying a belt of the temperate zone * * * * a region grand enough for the seat of a great empire—in its wheat fields in the West, * * * * its invaluable fisheries and its mineral wealth. I find its inhabitants vigorous, hardy, energetic and perfected by British constitutional liberty. Southern political stars must set, though many times they rise again with diminished splendor, but those which illuminate the pole remain for ever shining, for ever increasing in splendor."

No one acquainted with Canada, and especially that portion of which we are now writing, will dispute the justice of the parallel. It is to be a first-class new world power with its Danube of the Saskatchewan, and its Baltic and Black Sea of Lake Winnipeg and Lake Superior. The North-West of Canada demands its development independently, not from one nationality or section, it invites men from all parts of the earth, perfectly well aware that they might find nearer resting places. But they do not occupy Eastern lands, they are Westward bound. Its improved communications have made it easily accessible, within twelve to fourteen days of Liverpool, and the time has come when it may fairly

invite the hand of man to dress it, and to keep it, not as in Illinois, Nebraska, Kansas, and other Western States, where it is the custom to sell lands on four years' credit, a fourth of the cash down and the balance in three annual payments—but to the North-West of Canada, you are invited to become, without purchase, a free holder, and take rank among the lords of the soil.

A broad field of commercial activity is now open before us, and the hundreds of thousands who will be attracted hither will enter into triumphant competition with the agriculture of the world in its central marts.

If we examine the history of European emigration, we shall be struck with the fact, that nearly its entire volume has tended in the direction of the like climates of North America, and that when it has not, its attempts at colonization have been failures. India, conquered by British arms over a century ago, has offered all the rewards of cupidity in vain to British emigration. Africa exposed without defence to the repacity of any European nation, which might have desired its possession, has remained almost unmolested under the dominion of its savage children. South America, overrun four centuries ago by greedy hordes of Spanish and Portuguese adventurers, proved a fatal acquisition to its conquerors, and after centuries of stagnation, scarcely yet comes within the domain of civilization. Australia and New Zealand have only succeeded by the fictitious lure of gold, in diverting a part of the European emigration. An English writer has said: "Formerly the richest countries were those in which the products of nature were the most abundant, but now the richest countries are those in which man is the most active." In the Canadian North-West we may justly claim that both these essentials will be found in full measure. Our bountiful soil ensures the first, and our bracing atmosphere the second. Moreover, thanks to the wisdom of that generous legislation of the Dominion, which finds no parallel in the history of human enactments; every man or woman is here given a farm upon the simple condition of laboring three years in his or her own service.

It is the glory of Canada that the territory she acquires by purchase she offers to distribute among the landless of old nations, extending to them a cordial welcome to come and partake of the bounties which the enterprising and industrious may secure, and when it is considered that here also may be possessed the perfect health requisite for their highest enjoyment, it is not too much to claim that the Canadian North-West Prairie Lands present unequalled inducements to those in search of new homes.

WHAT CAPITAL CAN DO.

Of course capital, directed by sagacity and enterprise, possesses great advantages here as elsewhere; indeed, the numerous avenues being continually opened up by the rapid development of a bountiful new country like this, multiply the opportunities for its profitable employment. There is scarcely a vocation of any kind wherein the same capital and good management which insure success in older

communities will not yield far greater returns here. The legal rate of interest, when not stipulated, is six per cent; but any rate agreed upon is lawful, varying from ten to twenty per cent. At the latter rate money may be safely loaned, amply secured by mortgage. Judicious investments in real estate, owing to the rapid settlement and development of the country, are sure to realize large profits. Purchasers, both of city lots and farming lands, can be made in the Province of Manitoba at all times, which will command an advance of 25 to 50 per cent within a year, and not unfrequently such advance is over 100 per cent annually. The time was a few years ago, when this could be done without discrimination by the venturer, the sole condition of acquiring fancied wealth being to take hold. Now, good judgment is required to cause real estate or any active business to yield much better returns than money commands at interest.

WHAT PLUCK AND MUSCLE MAY DO.

Great as are the unquestionable advantages which a union of money and industry possess, there is no country under the sun where unaided muscle, with a plucky purpose, reaps greater rewards than under the bright skies and helpful atmosphere of this fair land.

Feeling himself every inch a man, as he gazes upon the unclaimed acres which shall reward his toil, the settler breathes a freer air, his bosom swells with a prouder purpose, and his strong arms achieve unwonted results. Any man whose capital consists on his arrival of little but brawny arms and a brave heart, may do as others have done before him, select a homestead in some of the many beautiful and fertile regions westward, and into which railroads will rapidly penetrate; after which, being allowed six months before settling upon the land, he may work upon the railroad and earn enough of money to make a start in a small way; and by the time he produces a surplus, the railway will be within a reasonable distance to take it to market; he finds himself the proud possessor of a valuable farm, which has cost him little but the sweat of his brow.

GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION AND ESTATE.

That magnificent portion of the North-West known as the Fertile Belt, the highway of the Canadian Pacific Railway, being of primary importance for the extension of settlement and commerce, may be briefly described as bounded on the South by the line of latitude 49° North—the Northern boundary of the United States; on the West by the crests of the Rocky Mountains, which divide it from the Province of British Columbia; on the North by the parallel of latitude 55° North, and on the East by the Province of Manitoba and lakes Winnipeg and Manitoba. Its length from its Eastern boundary Westward to the sources of the Saskatchewan is eight hundred miles, more or less. Its breadth Northward from latitude 49° to 55° is four hundred and sixty miles. It contains an area of about two hundred and eighty thousand square miles—that is to say, an area equal to that of France and Germany, or about six times that of the State of New York. It is

highly important to observe that the greater portion of this section of territory, within the boundaries stated, is as rich in soil as any part of America, and presents the very great advantage of being ready for the plough without the trouble of clearing and taking out stumps and stones, the less favorable portions being well adapted for stock-raising, with the exception of a narrow strip running parallel with the United States Northerly boundary line, which is described as a bare and treeless prairie, covered only with short grass, and very deficient of water, the soil light and sandy. In so great an extent of country there is naturally much variety in character and quality of soil.

The beautiful and fertile country known as the Peace River Valley, still further North, and with an equally fine climate for agriculture, has an area of about 100,000 square miles, which would give the total wheat area of the North-West about 380,000 square miles. However attractive the agricultural and mineral resources of this rich valley may be, any effort at present to promote immigration in that direction would be premature and inadvisable until the intervening country should be filled up, and the Pacific Railway completed, which may be much sooner than can at present be realized—judging by the past experience of the Western States, the rate of area absorbed by settlement in ten years being 170,955 square miles, and when we consider the important fact that population has already reached the *extreme limits on all sides of the arable lands in the United States.* Instead of the illimitable theater for the formation of new States, and the extension of population, which Western America has heretofore presented to the imagination of the political statist, the advancing tide of population must flow into the unoccupied districts of available land in the North-West of Canada. It is the cumulative pressure of population, upon the means of substance, which compels emigration Westward. Steam, by affording improved facilities of communication, removes the obstacles to its diffusion, and aids in its remarkable dispersion in the long and narrow lines along the banks of rivers, which characterize the frontier movement. Two consequences follow:

1.—The pressure being permanent and constantly increasing, the demand for new territory is also permanent and constantly increasing.

2.—This increasing tendency to territorial expansion is accompanied by an increased ratio in the growth of the population of new settlements.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY.

For the information of those who may take an interest in the future prospects of that great undertaking—the Canadian Pacific Railway—it may be here stated that this distribution, or rather restriction, of the arable areas of the Continent, though it has received little attention therefor, is destined to exert a decisive influence on the whole economy of our development. The two most important consequences which result from it are as follows:

1.—It establishes the present route through our rich valleys as a physical necessity.

2.—It will concentrate the entire expansive movement of population on this Continent in the same direction.

The Pacific Railroad of the United States Central route, and the Northern Pacific, westward from its present terminus at the crossing of the Missouri River, pass for a distance of nearly 2,000 miles over a country possessing little or no elements of self-sustentation—without a single navigable river on their lines, without the means of sustaining population, without way-traffic—and resting solely as commercial schemes on their extremities.

On the other hand, the Canadian Pacific Railway passes a thousand miles through a country which throws its solitary arch of verdure over the vast gulf of continental deserts. We have now seen how this circumstance combines with the geographical facts in the structure of this Continent; with the laws and tendencies of commercial movement throughout the world, to pour the whole stream of the world's commerce through these new North-Western valleys of Canada, and in this lies one of the elements of our future greatness.

BEAUTY AND FERTILITY.

Throughout our Prairie Lands is found not the illimitable level treeless prairies which distinguish Illinois, but a charming alternation of woods and prairie, upland and meadow, characterize the topography of the country. The general surface is undulating, well watered and ample building timber on the main streams. The prairie is frequently interspersed with groves of poplar, and oak openings, in many parts numerous lakes, presenting a pleasing and enlivening appearance, more fully described in another part.

It would be absurd to expect any country of this vast extent to be all equally fit to receive the plough at once. If only one-third is here pointed out as awaiting the industrious hand of man to ensure him independence, the other two-thirds are parts requiring draining or partial clearing. It would also be absurd to suppose it all equally fertile, as there is a considerable difference between the deep beds of black vegetable mould which generally prevail, and of course there are occasional bad spots and poor sandy ground, which must be found in all countries; but prominent among the questions proposed by the emigrant or capitalist seeking a new home in a new country are those concerning the climate, its temperature, adaptation to the culture of the grand staples of food, and its healthfulness. Therefore, in proof of our assertion that the Prairie Lands of Canada, offer the finest and most inviting field for Emigration, the following is submitted as

OFFICIAL AND SCIENTIFIC TESTIMONY.

In 1858 Captain Palliser was requested by the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies to state his opinion on the country he was engaged in exploring, and he describes the region drained by the Saskatchewan in the following words:—

"The extent of surface drained by the Saskatchewan and other tributaries

to Lake Winnipeg, which we had an opportunity of examining, amounts in round numbers to one hundred and fifty thousand square miles. This region is bounded to the North by what is known as the strong woods, or the Southern limit of the great circum-artic zone of forest which occupies these latitudes in the Northern Hemisphere. This line, which is indicated on the map, sweeps to the North-West from the shore of Lake Winnipeg and reaches its most Northerly limit about 54° 30' N. and longitude 119° W., from where it again passes to the South-West, meeting the Rocky Mountains in latitude 51° N. and 115° W. Between this line of the strong woods and the Northern limit of the true prairie country there is a belt of land varying in width, which at one period must have been covered by an extension of the Northern forests, but which has been gradually cleared by successive fires.

"It is now a partially wooded country, abounding in lakes and rich natural pasturage, in some parts rivalling the finest park scenery of our own country. Throughout this region of country the climate seems to possess the same character, although it passes through very different latitudes, its form being doubtless determined by the curves of the isothermal line. Its superficial extent embraces about sixty-five thousand square miles, (whether geographical or statute he does not state; if the former, it would be about eighty-five thousand statute), of which *more than one-third* may be considered as at once available for the purposes of the agriculturist. Its elevation increases from seven hundred to four thousand feet as we approach the Rocky Mountains at Edmonton, which has an altitude of 3,000 feet. Wheat is cultivated with success. The least valuable portion of the Prairie Country has an extent of about eighty thousand square miles, and is that lying along the Southern branch of the Saskatchewan, Southward from thence to the boundary line, while its Northern limit is known in the Indian languages as the 'edge of the woods,' the original line of the woods being invaded by fire.

"*It is a physical reality of the highest importance to the interests of British North America that this continuous belt can be settled and cultivated from a few miles West of Lake of the Woods to the passes of the Rocky Mountains, and any line of communication, whether by wagon or railroad, passing through it, will eventually enjoy the great advantage of being fed by an agricultural population from one extremity to the other. No other part of the American Continent possesses an approach even to this singularly favorable disposition of soil and climate.*

"The natural resources lying within the limits of the Fertile Belt, or on its Eastern borders, are themselves of great value as local elements of future wealth and prosperity; but, in view of a communication across the continent, they acquire paramount importance. Timber, available for fuel and building purposes, coal, iron ore are widely distributed, of great purity and in considerable abundance; salt, in quantity sufficient for a dense population. All these crude elements of wealth lie within the limits or on the borders of a region of great fertility."

His Grace Archbishop Taché, of St. Boniface, whose long residence and travelled experience throughout the North-West, says:

"The coal fields which cross the different branches of the Saskatchewan are a great source of wealth, and favor the settlement of the valley in which nature has multiplied picturesque scenery that challenges comparison with the most remarkable of its kind in the world. I can understand the exclusive attachment of the children of the Saskatchewan for their native place. Having crossed the desert, and having come to so great a distance from civilized countries, which are occasionally supposed to have a monopoly of good things, one is surprised to find in the extreme West so extensive and so beautiful a region. The Author of the universe has been pleased to spread out, by the side of the grand and wild beauties of the Rocky Mountains, the captivating pleasure grounds of the plains of the Saskatchewan."

Confining his remarks to the capabilities for stock raising, His Grace further adds, referring to the great extent of pasturage:

"The character and richness of its growth equalling the finest clover. It is

known that in cold countries grass acquires a nutritive power which its juices have not time to develop in warmer climates."

Captain W. J. S. Pullen, R. N., comparing with other countries:

"I have been in, viz.: Australia, America, North and South India, &c., that I have no hesitation in agreeing with Father de Smet, Mons. Borgeau, Blakiston and many others, that there is a most extensive portion of the country so long governed by the Hudson's Bay Company ready and offering a good field for colonization."

Lord Milton, who spent some time in the country, says:

"As an agricultural country its advantages can hardly be overrated. The climate is milder than that of the same portion of Canada which lies within the same latitudes, while the soil is at least equal, if not of greater fertility. Coal of good sound quality is abundant in the Saskatchewan, Battle, Pembina and other Rivers. In some places the beds are of enormous thickness, and may be worked without sinking, as it often crops out along the river banks. Cereals of almost every description flourish even under the rude cultivation of the Half-breeds. The same may be said of all the root crops which are ordinarily grown in England, Canada or the Northern States of America."

Mr. W. B. Cheadle, an English gentleman who accompanied Lord Milton, also says:

"At Edmonton, eight hundred miles distant from Fort Garry, near the Western extremity, wheat grows with equal luxuriance, and yields thirty to fifty bushels to the acre, in some instances even more. The root crops I have never seen equalled in England; potatoes get to an immense size, and yield enormously. Flax, hemp, tobacco, all grow well; all the cereals appear to flourish equally well; plums, strawberries, raspberries and gooseberries grow wild. The herbage of the prairie is so feeding that corn is rarely given to horses or cattle. They do their hard work, subsist entirely on grass, are most astonishingly fat; the draught oxen resemble prize animals at a cattle show. The horses we took with us were turned adrift at the beginning of winter, when snow had already fallen; they had been over-worked and were jaded and thin. In the spring we hunted them up, and found them in the finest condition, or rather too fat. The soil in La Belle Prairie, where we built our hut for the winter, was *four feet deep*, and free from rocks or gravel—the finest loam. The climate is that of Upper Canada, or perhaps rather milder. The summer is long and warm, the weather uniformly bright and fine; with the exception of occasional showers, a wet day is almost unknown. The winter is severe and unbroken by thaw, but pleasant enough to those able to house and clothe themselves warmly."

Prof. JOHN MACOUN, M.A., Botanist, who thoroughly explored the country, says:

"In Crofutt's Trans-Continental Tourists' Guide occurs the passage, speaking of the Prairie West of Antelope, on the line of the Union Pacific Railway: 'We now enter on the best grass country in the world,' and further on he says: 'The country is destined at no distant day to become the great pasture land of the continent.' "Now," says Prof. Macoun, "I have passed over these plains from Laramie to Antelope, which are represented as being the best grazing lands in the world, and which are now supporting thousands of cattle, and they bear no more comparison to our plains (the Saskatchewan) than a stubble field does to a meadow. While they have 1,000 miles of sage plains (valueless), for bunch grass soon dies out when pastured, and sage brush takes its place, we have over 1,000 miles, from East to West, of land covered at all times of the year with a thick sward of the richest grass, and which is so nutritious as to keep horses in good condition, though travelling, as ours did, at the rate of forty miles per day."

Further on he says:

"That there is a great uniformity respecting soil, humidity and temperature

throughout the whole region, is apparent from the unvarying character of its natural productions. Spring flowers were found on the plains April 11th, and the frogs croaking the same evening. During 20 years in Ontario, he never observed our first spring flower (Hepatica triloba) as early as that except twice."

Again he says:

"It requires very little prophetical skill to enable any one to foretell, that very few years will elapse before this region will be teeming with flocks and herds."

The Rev. George M. Gran, in "Ocean to Ocean," says, from his own experience crossing the continent as Secretary to the Engineer-in-Chief of the Canadian Pacific Railway:

"The climatological conditions are favorable for both stock raising and grain producing. The spring is as early as in Ontario, the summer is more humid, and, therefore, the grains, grasses and root crops grow better; the autumn is bright and cloudless; the very weather for harvesting; and the winter has less snow and fewer snowstorms, and, though in many parts colder, it is healthy and pleasant, because of the still, dry air, the cloudless sky and bright sun. The soil is almost everywhere a peaty or sandy loam resting in clay. Its only fault is that it is too rich. Crop after crop is raised without fallow or manure."

The following extract from the Speech from the Throne of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor of Monitoba, at the opening of Parliament, speaking of the prosperity of the Province of Manitoba:

"A harvest was reaped of such an abundant character as to prove beyond all question that Manitoba is entitled to take the highest rank as an agricultural country."

Lord Dufferin, so highly popular as the late Governor-General of Canada, has already given in many of his able and eloquent public speeches, his opinion, as the result of his visit to the country in the summer of 1877, pronouncing it to be one of the finest in the world.

Lastly.—Our newly-appointed Governor-General, the Marquis of Lorne, in his farewell address to the electors of Argyleshire, delivered at Inverary, thus refers to this favored portion of the Dominion:

"Some years ago, at a public meeting in Glasgow, I took the opportunity to describe the temptation offered by the Canadian Government to men employed in agriculture here, to settle in Manitoba, and since that day, as before it, hundreds of happy homesteads have risen, and the energies of the Dominion have been directed towards the construction of railways, which will make Manitoba and the North-West considerably *more accessible than is Inverary now.* Let me invite your attention to this great Province, and the vast prairies beyond. I am informed, unless one has heard or seen for himself, he can form no idea how fast the country is settling up with people from England, Scotland, Ireland, Russia, Iceland, and the older Provinces of the Dominion."

To this might be added, and even from the United States.

The foregoing corroborating testimony must be sufficient to carry conviction to the mind of the most ordinarily intelligent intending emigrant or investor, of the great superiority, in point of soil, climate and agricultural capacity, of this vast prairie country over that of any portion of the United States, which have risen so rapidly from the condition of a fringe of Provinces along the Atlantic to that of a mighty nation, spreading its arms across the continent.

Minnesota, the best agricultural and healthiest State in America,

is not equal to the soil of this country. Its richest part is in the valley of the Red River, and there it contracts to a narrow trough only a few miles wide, beyond which the soil is generally thin and poor; but, notwithstanding all difficulties, most of the emigrants to Minnesota are prospering. What a pround position the United States once occupied in the eyes of the whole world! "Ho! every one that wants a farm, come and take one," it cried aloud, and in every language. Poor men, toiling for a small daily wage in the Old Country, afraid of hard times, sickness and old age, heard the cry and loved the land that loved them so well and offered so fair. They came in thousands, and found, too, that it kept its word; and then they came in tens and hundreds of thousands, till now less liberal offers have to be made because most of the *public domain that is worth anything has been absorbed, as the testimony of General Hazen*, a prominent officer of the United States Army, *amply proves*. Poverty and destitution reign everywhere throughout the larger cities of the Atlantic, and thousands of immigrants glad to return, if they have the means, by the ship that brought them out. Now our vast virgin prairies are thrown open to the world, while there is little good land left in the United States available for settlement under the homestead laws, and railway land, which would be considered inferior, can only be *purchased* at enormous rates, varying from five to twenty dollars an acre, and even more. Any intending emigrant or each male member of his family over twenty-one years of age, is to-day invited by Canada to come and take a farm of one hundred and sixty acres free and ready for the plough, and which, in many places, would be envied even by the wealthy. Let the emigrant who may read this, do so carefully, and be no longer deceived by the influences of a vast army of agents paid in proportion to their success. Every principal railway-station in Europe is papered with their glowing advertisements, floods of pamphlets in every language, arrangements perfected in the minutest details for forwarding the ignorant and helpless stranger from New York and Chicago to any point he desires.

They make the doubter believe that it is better to pay their company from $5 to $20 an acre for "the best land in the world," "rich in minerals," "with no long winters," accompanied with free passes over the railway and long credits, "one-tenth down, the rest when it suits you," which the chances are, never,—loss of health and discouragement land him and his family, in the great majority of cases, in irretrievable ruin and misery. These brilliant offers and prophesies are held out as better than to take up homesteads in the prairie land of the North West of the Dominion of Canada.

COMPARISON WITH THE WESTERN STATES.

Many readers of this guide, who may be intending to emigrate, and have a longing desire to realize the romance and happiness of a life in the Western States of America, drawn to that, by the glowing and attractive pictures and representations which have been held out throughout Europe, of their riches, should know that Iowa and other

States to-day contain thousands who would gladly leave for anywhere, if not to return to their native land, *if they could;* fever and ague, poor and unsaleable land, dearly bought, have brought the inevitable end—ruin. The writer has seen too many letters telling the pitiful tale, and as a serious warning to intending emigrants and capitalists in Europe, the following is selected:

WILSON COUNTY, KANSAS,
April 27, 1876.

Editors Planters:

DEAR SIRS,—A few facts from actual experience of farming in Kansas—the other side, and the truth. We have been much amused by the gushing letters of some contributors to your valuable paper, about this State, and think the actual experience of farmers like ourselves might be as valuable as the moonshine idea of men who never put a plough in the ground, or raised a calf, or wintered a Texas steer, or tried to watch a corn-field, or sell corn at 10 cents per bushel. We came here four years ago, determined to like the country. Now, we believe it to be a delusion and a snare. We wanted cheap lands; we paid $1.25 per acre, but it has cost us in dead outlay, in money and in time, $5 to $20 per acre, and is all for sale less than cost.

We came to find a great stock country, where the time of feeding might be short, and cattle might live on the range all winter; we find it the worst hampered stock country we ever saw, and the grass nutritious and flesh-producing only three or four months of the year. We came to find a great wheat and corn country: we find that wheat-raisers have not averaged their seed. Corn ranges all the way from nothing to fifty bushels per acre. We expected to find a tame grass country, but, so far, timothy, clover and blue grass failed, and the climate that kills wheat will kill them. We came here to find a salubrious and healthy climate: we find it sickly, and the rates of mortality last winter along the streams terrible, so much so that we came to believe what an old doctor told us: "*That the most hardy could not expect to survive this climate fifteen years.*"

We came to the "Sunny South," where the warm zephyrs ever blow: we find cattle freeze to death in every locality. We came to find a great fruit country: we find our peach trees dead to the ground. We came to find a bracing air: we have found it so that we have to brace ourselves at an angle of forty-five degrees to make headway against the wind. We came here to escape the oppression of the rich, and the high taxes: our taxes range from 2.05 to 10 per cent on real estate, and does not pay anything. We came to find homes for the homeless, and land for the landless: we have got homes, very poor ones, and the land we would be glad to get shut of at half price. In short, we have got the land, and it has got us in the very worst way, and everyone is dissatisfied, unhappy, discouraged, and wants to get out of the country. We came to the country that was said to flow with milk and honey: we find it flowing with poverty and complaint. We find we must go where money is plenty, where labour is needed, and a market for our produce.

We live where every quarter section of land has been settled by good, energetic people, who have made every effort and universally failed; those who have done the most, and spent the most, are the most completely floored.

Such is our experience, after a fair, faithful trial of Southern Kansas. If you, Mr. Editor, can help us out in any way by advice or otherwise, you will oblige three farmers.

We have many friends East, and there are many coming West, we earnestly hope will see these few lines.

We do not wish to see our friends made paupers by doing as we have done, neither ought any more capital to be wasted in this desert of a country. We can substantiate all we have subscribed our names to by more positive proof if needed, and ask that this whole article may be published for the sake of truth.

Address,—

J. S. CALMER.
M. G. AVERILL.
J. T. DOUGLASS.

The foregoing is clipped from a Kansas newspaper, and however terrible the description, bears upon its face the honest truth.

The following is still more important, being extracts *from an official report* by GENERAL W. B. HAZEN, U. S A., an officer of high standing, and which was published in the *New York Tribune*. The report speaks for itself, and as the Northern Pacific Railway referred to has been constructed so far mainly with British capital.

It is to be hoped the attention of English capitalists may in the future be diverted to this portion of the Dominion of Canada as a safer and more reliable and inviting field for investment.

This distinguished officer, in the first place speaking of the lands of the Northern Pacific Railway, says:—

"For two years I have been an observer of the efforts upon the part of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company to make the world believe this section to be a valuable agricultural one, and with many others I have kept silent, although knowing the falsity of their representations, while they have pretty fully carried their point in establishing a popular belief favorable to their wishes.

"When reading such statements of its fertility as appear in the article entitled 'Poetry and Philosophy of Indian Summer,' in that most estimable periodical, *Harper's Monthly* of December, 1873—in which are repeated most of the shameless falsehoods so lavishly published in the last two years, as advertisements in the interests of that company, and perhaps written by the same pen—a feeling of shame and indignation arises that any of our countrymen, especially when so highly favored with the popular good-will and benefits, should deliberately indulge in such wicked deceptions. The theoretical isothermals of Captains Maury and Blodgett, which have given rise to so much speculation, and are used so extravagantly by those who have a use for them, although true along the Pacific coast, are not found to have been true by actual experience and observations, in this middle region.

"The past season, as seen by the meteorlogical report, has been exceptionally rainy and favorable for agriculture here, and the post has, with great care, and by utilizing all the available season, made an extensive garden with the following results: The garden is situated immediately on the river bank, about two feet above high water. Potatoes, native corn, cabbage, early-sown turnips, early peas, early beans, beets, carrots, parsnips, salsify, cucumbers, lettuce, radishes and asparagus have grown abundantly and have matured; melons, pumpkins and squashes have not matured; tomatoes did not turn red; American corn (early) reached roasting ears; onions, with wheat and oats, matured at Fort Bethold, D. T., one hundred and fifty miles below, in the Missouri River. I am told by those who have been here a long time that this may be taken as a standard for what may be expected the most favourable seasons in the immediate bottoms of the streams. The native corn matures in about ten weeks from planting. It puts out its ears from six to eight inches from the ground, and has a soft white grain without any flinty portion, and weighs about two-thirds as much as other corn.

"My own quarters are situated on the second bench of the banks of the Missouri, at about fifty feet above that stream, and six hundred yards away from it. And to raise a flower-garden ten feet by forty, the past two years, has required a daily sprinkling of three barrels of water, for which we were repaid by about three weeks of flowers.

"The site of this garden is supposed to be exceptionally fruitful, but I have before me a letter from Mr. Joseph Anderson, of St. Paul, Minn., who was hay contractor at this post in 1872. His letter states that in order to find places to cut the hay required by his contract that season, some nine hundred tons, he was compelled to search over a space of country on the North side of the river, twenty-five miles in extent in each direction from the post, or some four hundred square miles, and that there was none thick enough to be cut for as great a distance beyond. Respecting the agricultural value of this country, after leaving the excellent wheat-

growing valley of the Red River of the North, following Westward one thousand miles to the Sierras, excepting the very limited bottoms of the small streams, as well as those of the Missouri and Yellowstone, from a few yards in breadth to an occasional water-washed valley of one or two miles, and the narrow valleys of the streams of Montana, already settled, and a small area of timbered country in North-West Idaho (probably one-fifteenth of the whole), this country will not produce the fruits and cereals of the last, for want of moisture, and can in no way be artificially irrigated, and will not, in our day and generation, sell for one penny an acre, except through fraud and ignorance; and most of the here excepted will have to be irrigated artificially. I write this, knowing full well it will meet with contradiction, but the contradiction will be a falsehood. The country between the one hundredth meridian and the Sierras—the Rio Grande to the British possessions—will never develop into populous States because of its want of moisture. Its counterpart is found in the plains of Northern Asia and in Western Europe. We look in vain for those expected agricultural settlements along the Kansas and Union Pacific Railroads, between these two lines, and 20 years hence the search will be quite as fruitless. We have in Nevada and New Mexico fair samples of what these populations will be. My statement is made from the practical experience and observation of eighteen years of military service as an officer of the army, much of which has been upon the frontier, and having passed the remainder of my life a farmer. For confirmation for what I have here said, I respectfully refer the reader to General G. K. Warran, of the Engineer Corps of the Army, who made a scientific exploration of this country, extending through several years, and has given us our only accurate map of it; or to Prof. Hayden, for the past several years engaged upon a similar work. The testimony of Governor Stephens, General Fremont, and Lieut. Mullans, is that of enthusiastic travellers and discoverers, whose descriptions are not fully borne out by more prolonged and intimate knowledge of the country.

"Herr Hass, the agent of the Berlin and Vienna banks, sent out to examine the country, could easily say the country is good so long as he advised his people to invest no money in it; and it is doubtful if that remark was based upon a sufficiently authoritative investigation of the country to merit the credence given it. Certainly it is incorrect; and especially valueless is the testimony of men of distinction of our own country who are not practical agriculturists, but have taken journeys in the fruitful months of the year to the Red River of the North, to the rich valleys of Montana, or to the enchanting scenery of Puget Sound, except upon those particular points.

"I am prepared to substantiate all I have here said, so far as such matters are susceptible of proof, but, from their nature, many things herein referred to must, to many people, wait the action of the great solvent—Time."

In a later report, covering a greater extent of country, he quotes the testimony of persons who have examined the country as "Confirming my repeated statement that the country lying between 100 West longitude and the Sierra Nevada Mountains, all the way from Mexico to the British possessions in the North, is, in an agricultural sense, practically valueless, except in a few exceptional cases, where water can be used for irrigation; and that, even with this process, not much more than one acre in many thousands upon the average, can be made available on account of the scarcity of water."

General Hazen proceeds:

"The past season has been one of unusual and somewhat remarkable rains in Dakota, as well as in many other parts of the world. This has given fair crops of roots, vegetables and other grains, without irrigation, and has given the far struggling farmers about Bismarck great hopes for the future; but the officers of the land office told me in November that they are selling very little land, and that, even if the crops of the last very exceptionably favorable year could be taken as a criterion, general agriculture could not be made profitable in that region, remembering the suffering of

those who have sought homes to the Westward of the limit of sufficient rainfalls. The great need of correct information upon the subject to enable Congress to dispose intelligently of questions involving the capabilities of this country, the building up of new and populous States, such as Wisconsin, Iowa and Missouri, will no longer be seen on our present domain, and all calculations based upon such a thing are false, while all extraneous influences brought to bear upon emigration, to carry it West of the one hundredth meridian, excepting in a very few restricted localities, are wicked beyond expression and fraught with misery and failure."

Prof. HENRY, of the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, speaking of the explorations, under the auspices of the U. S. Government, of the region between the Mississippi and the Rocky Mountains, reveals to us the startling facts:

"That the *western progress* of its population, has nearly *reached the extreme western limit* of the areas available for settlement; and that the whole space west of the ninety-eighth parallel, embracing one-half of the entire surface of the United States, is *an arid and desolate waste*, with the exception of a narrow belt of rich land along the Pacific coast."

The importance of these official statements cannot be over-estimated in drawing public attention to our undeveloped resources, and should not fail to carry conviction to the most obtuse intellect, that as we have already stated, the entire expansive movement of population on the American continent will be concentrated in the direction of our vast fertile valleys, and under the wise policy of this great Confederacy of Canada, the future destiny of the North-West will be a great and glorious one; fortunate, therefore, will be the descendants of those who may obtain a foothold within its gigantic borders, possessing all the true elements of future greatness and prosperity, its rapid growth will be unparalleled.

SALUBRITY OF CLIMATE AND ADAPTION TO AGRICULTURE.

Of paramount importance to the emigrant is the healthfulness of the locality which is to be the scene of his future labours, and the home for himself and family. What to him are fair fields, flowering meadows, buried in the luxuriant growth of fertile soils and tropical suns, if they generate fever-producing miasma and vapour?—what are soft and perfumed breezes, if they waft the seeds of pestilence and death?—What are bountiful harvests of golden grain, rich and mellow fruits, and all the wealth the earth can yield, if disease must annually visit his dwelling, and death take away, one by one, the loved and the young? It is well known that some of the fairest portions of the Western States are so fruitful of the causes of disease as almost to preclude settlement. And thousands have left their comparatively healthy Canadian and European homes to find untimely graves in the prairie soil of Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and Missouri. And even in the sections of these States deemed most healthy, the climate has an enervating effect upon those accustomed to the bracing air of Northern Europe and our Eastern Provinces.

The dryness of the air, the character of the soil, which retains no stagnant pools to send forth poisonous exhalations, and the almost total absence of fog or mist, the brilliancy of its sunlight, the pleasing

succession of its seasons, all conspire to make this a climate of unrivalled salubrity and the home of a joyous, healthy, prosperous people, strong in physical, intellectual and moral capabilities. Therefore, the assertion that the climate of our North-West is one of the healthiest in the world may be broadly and confidently made, sustained by the experience of its inhabitants. Some of the hardiest and strongest men the writer has ever seen are Europeans and Canadians, who came to this country at an early date, and finally became settlers. Agriculture, therefore, cannot suffer from unhealthiness of climate.

Its distinguishing features in relation to husbandry. The melon growing in open air, and arriving at perfect maturity in August and September, may be briefly explained by reference to the amount of sunlight received during our growing seasons, viz: whilst at New Orleans in July they have fourteen hours of sunlight, we have sixteen, with much longer twilight than they, consequently our vegetation grows more rapidly than theirs, and matures much sooner. This is a beautiful law in compensation, as what we lack in heat is made up in sunlight during our summers. Changes in our temperature, it must be admitted, are sometimes sudden and violent. We are about half way to the North Pole, and subject to either extremes. This instead of being a disadvantage is rather in our favour, it gives variety, a thing desirable at times. Then again these changes are, for the reasons already given, seldom pernicious. Plants and animals are armed with the proper implements for resistance. I would not infer that we are subject to hurricanes, or other violent commotions of the atmosphere, any more or as much as other places. But we have a touch at times of both extremes, a vibratory movement of the climates of the torrid and frigid zones.

The seasons follow each other in pleasing succession. As the sun approaches its northern altitude, winter relaxes its grasp, streams and lakes are unbound, prairie flowers spring up, as if by the touch of some magic wand, and gradually spring is merged into the bright beautiful June, with its long warm days, and short, but cool and refreshing nights. The harvest months follow in rapid succession, till the golden Indian Summer of early November, foretells the approach of cold and snow; and again winter, with its short days of clear bright sky and bracing air, and its long nights of cloudless beauty, complete the circle.

The average fall of snow is about six inches per month. The snow falls in small quantities, at different times, and is rarely blown into drifts so as to impede travelling. With the new year commences the extreme cold of our winter, when, for a few days, the mercury ranges from 15 to 35 degrees below zero, falling sometimes even below that. Yet the severity of these days is much softened by the brilliancy of the sun, and the stillness of the air. Thus, while in lower latitudes, they are being drenched by the cold rain storms, or buried beneath huge drifts of wintry snow, we enjoy a dry atmosphere, with bright cloudless days, and serene starlight nights; and when the moon turns her full orbed face towards the earth, the night scene is one of peerless grandeur.

The buffaloes have wintered in myriads on the nutritious grasses of the prairies, up to as high a latitude as Lake Arthabaska; and the Half-breeds and Indians camp out in the open plains during the whole of the winter, with no shelter but a buffalo skin tent and robes, and horses of the settlers run at large and grow fat on the grasses which they pick up in the woods and bottoms.

The following table will serve for comparison between our summer temperatures, with the agricultural climates South of us :

	June.	July.	August.	Summer mean.
Red River	69 10	71 16	63 03	67 76
Chicago	62 7	70 08	86 95	67 03
Iowa	66 4	70 05	63 09	68 06
Wisconsin	61 7	68 06	65 07	65 03
New York	64 2	68 05	66 07	66 05
Ontario	59 93	67 95	64	

It will thus be seen that the summer climate is warmer than that of Northern Illinois, Western Wisconsin, Northern New York, or Ontario. The fall plunges into winter almost as rapidly as the spring emerges from it. In relation to agriculture, the intensity of winter cold is of comparatively little moment, and its effects upon the physical comfort is mitigated by a clear dry atmosphere, such as makes the winters of our Eastern Provinces the season of animal and social enjoyment.

Here no chilly winds from the Atlantic are sowing broadcast the seeds of that terrible disease, pulmonary consumption; if such claims its victim, the cause is to be sought elsewhere.

SEASONS.

The natural division of the seasons is as follows :

Spring.—April and May.

Summer.—June, July, August and part of September.

Autumn.—Part of September and October.

Winter.—November and December, January, February and March.

Frequently the weather is warm, the atmosphere hazy and calm till late in November, and the early and rapid advancement of temperature in May is strikingly represented.

THE SOIL AND ITS AGRICULTURAL CAPACITY.

The soil is generally an alluvial black argillaceous mould, rich in organic deposit, and resting for a depth of eighteen inches to four feet, on a tenacious clay. Scientific analysis developes the presence in due proportion of elements of extraordinary fertility, comparing favorably with the most celebrated soils of the world. This theoretic excellence is amply confirmed by the practical results of agriculture, as is shewn hereafter.

The following important analysis of a sample of the prairie soil of this country, was made at the instigation of some gentlemen of capital,

practical farmers in Scotland, who visited the country, and became so favorably impressed as to invest largely in lands.

The analysis is by Dr. Macadam, the well-known lecturer on Chemistry, in the University of Edinburgh, and proves beyond doubt that to the farmer who desires to select for his future home a country which has the most productive soil, and promises the richest harvest, nowhere in the world are greater attractions offered:

ANALYTICAL LABORATORY, SURGEON'S HALL,
EDINBURGH, 14*th December*, 1876.

ANALYSIS OF SAMPLE OF MANITOBA SOIL.

Moisture		21.364
Organic matter containing nitrogen equal to ammonia, 23°		11.223
Saline matter:		
Phosphates	0.472	
Carbonate of lime	1.763	
Carbonate of magnesia	0.937	
Alkaline salts	1.273	
Oxide of iron	3.115	
		7.560
Silicious matter:		
Sand and silica	51.721	
Alumina	8.132	
		59.853
		100.000

The above soil is very rich in organic matter, and contains the full amount of the saline fertilizing matters found in all soils of a good bearing quality.

(Signed), STEPHENSON MACADAM, M. D.,
Lecturer on Chemistry, &c.

An important feature in the soil of our prairies is, that its earthy materials are minutely pulverized, and is almost everywhere light, mellow, and spongy.

With these uniform characteristics, the soils are of different grades of fertility, according to local situation. The limestone sub-strata of this region, with its rich, deep, calcareous loam and retentive clay subsoil, is always associated with a rich wheat development, while its hot and humid summers fulfil all the climatological conditions of a first-rate wheat country. Some fields on the Red River have been known to produce twenty successive crops of wheat without fallow or manure, and the yield has frequently reached as high as forty bushels per acre.

Blodgett (an American authority) states "that the basin of the Winnipeg is the seat of the greatest average wheat product on this continent, and probably *in the world.*"

As will be observed by the analysis of Dr. Macadam, a general ingredient of the soil is sand, of which silica is the base, as of all good soils. It plays an important part in the economy of growth, and is an essential constituent in the organism of all cereals. We are told that

about 67 per cent. of the ash of the stems of wheat, corn, rye, barley, oats, &c., is pure silica, or flint. It is this which gives the glazed coating to the plants and gives strength to the stain. Now this silica is an acid and is insoluble, but readily combines with lime, soda, magnesia, potash, and the other ingredients of our soil, and in this condition is readily available to the use of the plant, and forms an essential element in the growth of the cereals; from this and other causes is attributable the superiority of our wheat over all other grown East or South.

All root crops and vegetables attain enormous size. Early Rose potatoes were sent from here to the great International Exhibition at Philadelphia, which weighed from 2½ to 3½ pounds each, and received honorable mention and awards; also, other vegetables and cereals; *facsimilies* in wax of potatoes were also shewn at the Paris Exhibition, and received awards. Samples of "Fife" and "Golden drop" spring wheat grown here received a medal and awards at both exhibitions.

The average yield of wheat in Manitoba, deducted from the aggregate of local estimates (not official) is twenty bushels to the acre, the range of ordinary yields being from fifteen to thirty-five. Experience has taught us to allow largely for the disposition to base general inferences on the most striking and notorious instances, and for the general habit of confounding a usual result with an average one.

The official returns of Minnesota, which is considered the best wheat-growing State in America, set down the average production at seventeen bushels to the acre.

A comparison of the yield of wheat for past years at Manitoba, with the best districts of the United States, will show its superiority over them, viz.:

Manitoba Spring Wheat,	average	production,	20	bushels	per acre.
Minnesota	do.	do.	17	do.	do.
Wisconsin	do.	do.	14	do.	do.
Pennsylvania	do.	do.	15	do.	do.
Massachusetts	do.	do.	16	do.	do.

The weight as compared with that of the following States, is

Manitoba Spring Wheat		63 to 66 lbs.	to the bushel.
Minnesota	do.	60 to 65 lbs.	do.
Illinois	do.	52 to 58 lbs.	do.
Ohio	do.	57 to 60 lbs.	do.
Pennsylvania	do.	57 to 60 lbs.	do.

The soundness and fullness of the grain, is unmistakably indicated by the fact, that it *will command a higher price* than any Western State grain, when it goes to market unmixed and well cleaned.

The fact established by climatologists that "the cultivated plants yield the greatest products near the Northernmost limit at which they will grow," is fully illustrated in our productions. It is a well known fact that, in Southern latitudes, the warm spring develops the juices of the plant too rapidly. They run into the stalk and leaf to the neglect

of the seed. Corn-maize, for example, rises 30 feet high in the West Indies; but it produces only a few grains at the bottom of a spongy cob, too coarse for human food

The cool, late springs of Northern climates restrain the undue luxuriance of the stem or leaf, and throw the chief development of the plant into the ripening period. This remark applies equally to all the cereals, esculent roots and vegetables.

In regard to

FROSTS,

experience has shewn that the liability to disastrous frosts in the season of growth, and which so intimately concerns the interests of husbandry, is not any worse in this country than elsewhere, when the thermometer has occasionally fallen to 30 ° in the latter end of August; vegetation did not suffer; in fact the injury was scarcely noticeable, which may be accounted for from the following reasons:

1.—The dryness of the atmosphere (which is a peculiarity of this region), allows a much lower range of temperature without injury to vegetation, than in moister climates; and in addition to the heat, gives greater vigour to the plants, they grow rapidly but with firm texture, and are consequently able to resist much cold. On account of their excessive vitality, the same as a person who has dined heartily on rich food, is better able to bear the cold of winter.

2.—The sudden change of temperature, which is often the case in this region,—one extreme following another in rapid succession, is less deleterious to vigorous plants, than a gradual lowering of temperature. The earth and plants still retain the heat previously absorbed, and are thus enabled to bear an atmosphere at 20 ° much better than at 35 °, after their latent heat has been given off. The soil of the prairie is in general dry, and is rapidly warmed by the rays of the sun in Spring.

3.—The dryness of the air is accounted for from the fact that the moisture conveyed in the air has a tendency to soften the delicate covering of the plants, and thus render them more sensitive to cold.

4.—The heat retaining character of the soil. For these and several other reasons that might be mentioned, the climate of Manitoba is less subject to killing frosts, than might at first be supposed, on account of its high latitude.

INDUCEMENTS OFFERED BY PRAIRIE LANDS TO SETTLERS.

The chief peculiar advantage of the Prairie Country as a field for settlement lies in the combination it offers of prairie and wood lands; the full advantage of which can be appreciated only by those who have had practical experience of the great and continued labour required to clear off and cultivate a new farm in a wooded country, and the obstruction it presents to the making of the roads necessary for the formation of new settlements.

Much is said of the advantage of the superior supply of wood for fuel and fencing afforded by wooded countries; but these are indefinitely over-estimated by many in comparing the facilities for settlement

offered by prairie lands and wooded countries respectively. Such a comparison can be best appreciated by reducing the matter to figures as far as possible.

For the benefit of those not familiar with the labor of making a farm in the back-woods of the older Provinces, it may be mentioned:

The first and most obvious cause of expense, in money or labor is the necessity of clearing off the wood, before the land can be even imperfectly cultivated, the average cost of which is three pounds five shillings an acre; but, as the stumps still remain, an outlay of twenty-five shilling an acre may be set down as to be incurred afterwards, in getting rid of them. When the stumps are of pine or the land stony, the cost will be much greater. In general, pine stumps, if removed at all, will cost at least five shillings a piece, and some will cost twenty-five shillings. We have here as one item, at least four pounds ten shillings an acre, of expense to be incurred, on account of the wood, before the land can be brought thoroughly under the plough.

This is the cost of those who can afford to pay for the labor of skilled back-woodsmen, accustomed to the use of the axe, who can do twice as much of that kind of work as the immigrant from Europe, even though accustomed to other kind of hard labor.

To the tenant farmer or farm laborer from Great Britain, whose time and industry, if applied to the cultivation of our rich prairie land, would be even more valuable than that of the back-woodsman, the cost of clearing wood land in money's worth of his labour will be twice as much. If he be very young he may learn the use of the axe perfectly, if not, he will never learn to use it so as to be able to do as much work with it as the native back-woodsman.

As by far the greater part of the immigrants who settle in the woods have to clear their farms by their own unskilled labor, admitting even that they become gradually more proficient, the cost to them in their own labor, of clearing their farms, and removing the stumps, may, on a low estimate, be set down at five pounds ten shillings an acre.

We do not speak here of the value which their labor in clearing would command. No one would give them such a price for it. We are speaking of the value of the labor unavoidably lost by them on account of the woods.

Here we have, then, to a family clearing, a farm of a hundred acres in ten or fifteen years, a loss of *five hundred and fifty pounds on account of the woods.*

The settler expends all this and *ten* or *fifteen years of the best of his life*, in toilsome struggles to convert his farm into such proportions of open and wooded land as the settler on our partly wooded prairie lands finds his when he first goes on it; in other words, he actually receives from the Government the free gift of a ready-made farm of the richest kind. He can put as much land under the plough and reap the fruit of it soon after commencing, as the former can do after ten or fifteen

years of crushing toil in clearing land, which necessarily consumes much time which he would gladly devote to more extensive cultivation and raising larger crops when the woods are not an obstruction to his doing so.

Besides this relief from heavy toil and time lost in clearing, there is another advantage of prairie land that operates strongly in the settler's favor, the full value of which can only be appreciated by a man who has made a beginning in the unbroken forest, an advantage which tells immediately to the personal comfort and benefit of the settler and his family—that is, the infinite abundance of the rich grass for summer and winter food for cattle, with which he is surrounded.

The new settler on our prairie land can keep as many cows for the supply of his family with milk and butter and cheese for sale as it may suit his means to purchase *from the first day of his settlement;* for his pasture and meadows are already in abundance before him, and in most places the cattle can find the chief part of their winter food for themselves, and be fat in spring.

It is not surprising, therefore, that so many European imm grants have hitherto passed through Canada to seek the prairie land of the United States. Even old and successful settlers in Canada have been tempted, and found it to their advantage to do so, although they had nothing like the advantages in point of climate and agricultural capacity which the North-West of Canada can now offer to millions; that wonderfully rapid development which the United States experienced within the last quarter of a century has ceased, its vast expanses of fertile prairie land is nearly all absorbed; what little is left in private hands and railway corporations can only be purchased at enormous prices, while we are now able to offer better land free to immigrants than th United States, or any of its railway companies can offer.

The grooves worn smooth by the millions tramping westward will hereafter change in the direction of Canada's boundless prairie lands.

The forest lands have the advantage in the more abundant supply of timber for fencing and fuel, to a certain degree, over the mixed prairie and wood lands, but it is to be borne in mind, that great districts of our Prairie Lands in the West, have in them immense beds of lignite coal, a supply of fuel for ever, which will place them in a far better position than some of the old settlements of the Eastern Provinces, where wood for fuel is already deficient, and is rapidly becoming more so.

BUILDING TIMBER, FUEL AND FENCING.

Nearly all the rivers and streams are skirted with belts of timber fit for building and fuel, principally oak, ash, whitehood and poplar, in some parts tamarac and spruce, with extensive forest tracts.

Poplar for fencing will generally also be found in small groves on the prairie, and if the bark is peeled off, makes a good and lasting fence, small ash, oak, or tamarac being used for the pickets, when it can be conveniently found. Legislation has already liberally provided for the encouragement of the growth of timber, as well as for the prevention of its destruction by prairie fires. Poplar is very rapid in

its growth, also soft maple (a beautiful shade tree) which from the seed, will in the third year attain a height of four to five feet.

INFORMATION ON TREE CULTURE.

As it is a matter of importance that every immigrant in the North West should endeavor to increase instead of decrease the wood he may have on his farm, as it is a fixed fact in Physical Geography that the more the land is clothed with trees, the greater the rainfall. In Palestine and Northern Africa, what were the most fruitful countries in the world 2000 years ago are now barren wastes. The cause is well known: the trees were cut down, none were planted in their place, the sun evaporated the rain before it had time to permeate the soil, and in course of time the land was given up to perpetual barrenness.

At the same time it may be well to remark that with us the long rich grass which clothes the prairies must act as a great preventive against the sun's power.

The agent which has caused the destruction of forests that once occupied many parts of the prairies is undoubtedly fire, occasioned by the carelessness of travellers and Indians camping, and the same swift and effectual destroyer prevents the new growth from acquiring dimensions, which would enable it to check their annual progress.

This, however, will soon be arrested with the advance of settlement and governmental care. In the State of Minnesota, forests have sprung up with wonderful rapidity on the prairies, as the country became settled so as to resist and subdue the encroachment of annual fires.

In view of the importance of the subject the following practical hints are offered, and will be found of value to the immigrant, especially as the law passed by the Dominion Parliament affords liberal encouragement to persons taking up homestead claims, by allowing them to secure an additional quarter section, without any other payment than an office fee of ten dollars, upon the simple condition of their planting thirty-two acres, by successive annual instalments.

Here is the experience of an extensive farmer in the State of Minnesota; his example can be equally well followed in any part of our prairie lands:

In spring he covered seventy-two acres with cuttings of cotton wood, poplar and white willow, which have flourished finely, and, after two years, were from ten to fourteen feet high. At the same time he *planted several bushels of seed*, including two elder, oak, white and red elm, hard and soft maple and bass wood, and the sprouts from this seed in two years were three to five feet high.

DIRECTIONS FROM EXPERIENCE. PREPARATION OF THE SOIL.

A proper and thorough cultivation of the soil is an indisputable pre-requisite to success; without this thorough preparation, failure and disappointment are inevitable.

To secure the best results the ground must have been previously broken and the sod thoroughly decomposed; then, with a common stir-

ring plough, the ground to be planted should be given a thorough ploughing to the depth of ten inches, after which it should be thoroughly harrowed until the ground is completely pulverized. It is recommended that the ground for a single row for a fence or for a hedge should be prepared in the above manner, in a strip eight feet wide, in the centre of which the cuttings should be set in, leaving a margin for cultivation four feet wide on each side of the cuttings.

METHOD OF PLANTING.

Stretch a small rope of suitable length over the exact place where it is desirable to plant the cuttings, each end of the rope to be staked firmly to the ground. The ground immediately beneath the rope should be smoothed off with a small iron rake. The planter should then take up as many cuttings as he can conveniently carry under one arm and proceed to stick them in the ground close up to the rope. They should be stuck deep, leaving not more in any case than two buds out of the ground. If stuck in the full length it is just as well. It is advised that they should be stuck in standing, say at the angle of from 30 to 45 degrees and invariably butt end first. For a live fence or hedge, they should be stuck as nearly as possible one foot apart, 5280 cuttings will plant a mile of such fence. Two good hands can plant this mile in a day if the ground is partly prepared for them.

METHOD OF CULTIVATION.

As soon after planting as the weeds and grass show themselves, hoeing should be commenced; every cutting should be carefully hoed. All of the four feet margin on each side of the row should be hoed thoroughly, as soon afterwards as the cuttings have started, so that the row may be distinctly seen, the grass and weeds killed, leaving all of the four feet on each side of the row perfectly mellow. This process should be repeated two or three times during the season, as not a weed or a bunch of grass should be allowed to go to seed. Great care should be exercised in hoeing not to disturb the cutting of the young tree. After harvest all the weeds and grass found within the four feet margin should be gathered and burned.

Look out for prairie fires, and, if the plantation is in danger, *burn round it.*

It cannot be sufficiently impressed upon the tree planter *that thorough* cultivation the first season will ensure the success of the plantation. The second year the plants will do with half the cultivation, and the third year no further cultivation will be required. By pursuing this treatment the cuttings will be grown in five years to a size and height which will form an impenetrable barrier to horses and cattle, as well as a valuable windbreak. Ten acres planted in this way in rows eight feet apart will in that period (5 years) not only furnish all the fuel and fencing necessary to support a farm, but will also bring a handsome income from the fence poles which may be spared to less fortunate neighbors.

The earlier the cuttings are planted after the frost is out of the ground the better, but the planting may be continued to the 1st of June with success. Cuttings set in spring ploughing time should have the earth pressed on each side of them as fast as the planting progresses. The cuttings may be procured from the nearest natural groves or belts of woods on the margin of streams or the river sides.

YOUNG TREES AND SEEDS.

Young aspen and poplar, one or two years old, may be gathered in waggon loads on the prairie in the vicinity of groves which fires have not run over. The seeds of the ash-leaved maple, the ash, and the elm (very pretty and suitable for protection round the house and stables) may be found in abundance from these trees along the margins of the streams, and should be gathered as soon as ripe. Soft maple and elm, ripens in June, and should be planted before the seeds are dried, or they fail to come up; the seed should be planted in drills in small furrows previously made by the hoe, and should be liberally sown, then covered with a small iron rake to a depth of from one to two inches. Seed necessary to be kept throughout the winter should be kept in moist sand, in boxes or barrels, two parts of sand to one of seed, and where they will be kept cool, and at about their natural moisture.

COAL AND PEAT.

The route of the Canadian Pacific Railway (which, under the vigorous policy of a new Government, its construction will be rapidly pushed westward), is indicated as the natural pathway of commerce by the vast and inexhaustible coal beds through which it runs for over two hundred miles.

From Geological reports, and the Engineer's surveys, the district through which it passes possesses one of the largest coal fields in the world.

Between the 59th parallel and the North Sea, it has been calculated that there cannot be much less than 500,000 square miles that are underlaid by true coal. The average breadth of this belt is about 280 mies. In addition to the coal, this country contains rich deposits of iron ore.

On the North Saskatchewan River, coal prevails with little interruption in beds two and two-and-a-half feet thick on the bank of the river, from a little below Edmonton, upwards for two hundred miles.

On the Pembina River, 70 miles to the West, there is a seam ten feet thick, of a very superior quality. On the Battle River it is also noted, and in the Red Deer Branch of the South Saskatchewan, 170 miles from its mouth, are extensive deposits of coal, and at 100 miles further up it is there in beds so close, that, of 20 feet of strata exposed, 12 feet are coal.

Specimens of coal from various sections of the Saskatchewan country were recently forwarded for analysis to Professor Haanel, of Victoria College, Ontario, with the following result. He says:

"The specimens were the out-crop in each case, and taken from points at least

300 miles apart. The accompanying table of assays of coal from some of the principal mines of the United States and Nova Scotia are highly valuable for comparison, and when it is remembered that their samples were taken from the bed of the mine, and my specimens from the out-crop, the superior quality of the Saskatchewan coal is fully established."

ANALYSIS OF PROF. HAANEL, VICTORIA COLLEGE.

LOCALITY.	Spec. gr.	Moisture	Vol. Matter.	Fixed Carbon.	Ash.	
I	1.375	11.88	28.66	57.25	2.21	100.00
II	1.375	11.41	29.07	56.94	2.58	100.00
III	1.340	6.69	33.70	53.25	6.36	100.00
IV	1.337	6.89	33.57	50.90	8.64	100.00
Maryland	.....	1.25	15.80	73.01	9.74	99.80
Pennsylvania	.....	0.82	17.01	68.82	13.35	100.00
Virginia	.....	1.64	36.63	50.99	10.74	100.00
Joggins	.....	2.50	36.30	56.00	5.20	100.00
Springhill	.....	1.80	28.40	56.60	13.20	100.00
District of Pictou	.....	1.750	25.875	61.950	10.425	100.00
Same locality to top bench.	.....	1.500	24.800	51.428	22.271	100.00
District of Richmond	.....	.30	.25	56.40	13.35	100.00

The numbers I. to IV. are as follows:
The Pembina coal, 100 miles N. W. from Edmonton—I.
That from near Belly River, South Saskatchewan—II.
That from Belly River—III.
That from Saskatchewan River, near Fort Edmonton, 900 miles N. N. W. of the city of Winnipeg, in Manitoba—IV.

I. and II. are bituminous coals, of a bright lustre, irregular fracture, showing, to judge from the small specimens sent, no distinct lamination, of a high spec. gr. 1.375, comparatively free from sulphur, and giving out little tarry matter upon coking.

If the specimens are compared among themselves, I. and II. prove the best, IV. the poorest, yet by no means a *poor* coal. None of the specimens contain inspissated pyrites, and are comparatively free from sulphur.

I. and II. contain all the qualities to render them superior coal for heating purposes, and III. and IV. are much better than a great deal of the coal from Pennsylvania, such as we are often obliged to burn.

For comparison, I add some assays of Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia coal, quoted from Dana, and Joggins and Springhill coal, from the Cumberland coal field; from the carboniferous district of Pictou, and from the district of Richmond. These last quoted from Dawson's Acad. Geol.

Many other seams are found over a wide extent of country, and it is but reasonable to infer that several of these will yield excellent fuel, for even in the richest coal countries there is no such abundant outcrops as here.

Surely with these riches and its vast agricultural resources, there is a great future in store for the North-West of Canada. Fortunate, therefore, will be the descendants of those who may now obtain a foothold within its gigantic borders, possessing as it does all the true elements of future greatness and prosperity.

With the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway, its rapid growth and wealth will be unparalleled in the history of civilization.

For the deficiency which nature has made in some localities of wood and coal, there are immense deposits of *peat*, a cheap and excellent *substitute for both*, for ordinary use and manufacturing purposes. Peat is a deposit of vegetable matter, which has collected for ages in bogs and marshes. In many places it only requires to be cut out in square lumps with a light spade and dried. It burns slowly, and gives off a great quantity of heat. It is identical with the "turf" taken from the peat bogs of Ireland and Scotland, where it is extensively used. When dried it is carted and piled up under a shed, so as to keep dry for use. Peat is also compressed by machinery invented for that purpose, until almost as solid as coal, and is equal to the same weight for heating purposes, and superior to wood. It may be used in an ordinary stove, if such be bricked or lined with soapstone to enable it to stand the intense heat emitted. It has been used on the Grand Trunk Railway of Canada, instead of wood or coal, with success and economy. When used in a box stove, the heat is intense and far greater than coal. A gentleman well acquainted with the manufacture of peat, lately visited this country, for the purpose of forming an estimate of the local capabilities of production, thus describes his process of manufacture, which may interest enterprising capitalists. He says:

"In the first place, drain the bog, either by natural or artificial means, or both to bring the peat to such consistency that when it has passed through the disintegrating machine and been forced into the moulds, it will retain its shape. It will be, then carried on cars (on tracks laid for the purpose) into a large covered shed, the four sides of which are open, to allow of a constant current of air to pass through, so as to partially dry the peat. It is then run into the drying-house and subjected to artificial heat, which is generated from the boilers, and which we save and utilize by a process invented by Mr. Wright. It is forced into the drying-room by fan-blowers in such quantities, and regulated in such a manner as not to dry the peat too rapidly. If peat is dried too quickly it breaks and crumbles. This is in brief the process for the manufacture of peat."

The building would require to be large enough to contain engine, boilers, and four drying-rooms adjoining each other, so that they can be heated at the same time, or separately, as may be desired. A building of that description would require to be at least 60 feet in width, by 175 to 200 feet in length, one story high, which would cost from $4,000 to $5,000, with a capacity of 100 tons per day. The estimated cost of manufacture is one dollar per ton, each ton being equal to one and a quarter cords of hard wood, which in the city of Winnipeg is sold at from $6 to $7 per cord.

MINERAL RESOURCES.

Our mineral deposits—next in importance to coal, already referred to—may, so far as yet known, be embraced in the following:

Iron—Is found throughout the coal region, at accessible distances from the line of railway, and gives promise of the establishment of future centres of industry along the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Gold—Is found on the numerous sand-bars of the North Saskatchewan River, paying from $5 to $10 per day, with limited appliances for mining and washing. As the country settles up, and supplies become cheaper and more easily obtained, no doubt enterprising proprietors will yet make valuable discoveries in the numerous streams running from the Eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains. But the richest mines of wealth belong to our productive soil. There is a mine on every farm of 160 acres, and it requires no capital to work it, except industry.

Limestone.—A fine quality is found in many portions of the country, and affords ample material for the manufacture of lime.

Clay.—A kind of blue clay, underlying the soil, makes brick of a good quality. White marl occurs in large beds; it is used for pottery-making, and also makes a hard, durable brick, similar to the famous "Milwaukee brick."

Salt Springs—Are numerous—some of them very pure, yielding upwards of a bushel of salt to thirty or forty gallons of brine, the writer having himself made salt from the brine of that strength as obtained on the surface without boring, and of as good a quality as American or English production. With the development of the country, this source of wealth must yet be an important one.

WHEAT-GROWING.

Wheat-growing has been termed the "back-bone of agriculture." When the vital importance of maintaining and increasing the production of a grain so essential to civilized man is considered, it cannot be assigned a less place in agricultural anatomy. Wheat is pre-eminently the food of civilized nations; and perhaps there can be no surer measure of their civilization than the culture and consumption of that cereal. History affirms its agency in shaping the power and character of nations. They have grown sturdy and progressive in their ratio of wheat consumption by all classes. Scientific analysis confirms the indications of History. Anatomy and Chemistry show that food to be best, which gives toughness to muscular fibre, and tone to the brain.

England, who has long since been the conceded mistress of the seas, and whose dependencies will nigh encircle the globe, has so stimulated and enlarged her capacity for wheat-growing, that her annual average is twenty-eight bushels per acre; but her consumption so far outruns her production, that she lays the world under contribution for her supplies of bread. The grave significance of the question involved is not susceptible of concealment, when the fact is considered that while the consumption of wheat, as the choice food of the human race, is rapidly extending, the capacity of wheat-growing regions for its production is rapidly diminishing. We are told that in New England, U. S., the entire wheat product of a year is barely sufficient to feed her own people for three weeks, and the State of New York for six months. In the ten years ending in 1860, the wheat crop of only four States decreased 6,500,000 bushels. In the light of these facts it is not difficult to foresee that the North-West of the Dominion of

Canada must yet assume a proud pre-eminency in wheat-growing.

The following facts are demonstrated:

First.—That there exists a constantly and inevitably increasing foreign demand for breadstuffs, with a constantly increasing demand for domestic consumption.

Second—That therefore the value of wheat, as a commercial staple, is advancing in a compound ratio.

Third.—That, within this zone, the climate and other causes tend to concentrate the growth of wheat in the best districts.

Fourth.—The prairie lands of Canada are the best of these wheat districts, having the largest average yield, the most certain crops, and the best and healthiest grains.

OATS, BARLEY, RYE, POTATOES, ETC.

The whole group of subordinate cereals follow wheat, and are less restricted in their range, growing five degrees beyond wheat, in the Mackenzie River Valley to the Arctic Circle. Barley is a favourite alternative of wheat in Manitoba, and yields enormous returns, with a weight per bushel of from 50 to 55 pounds. Oats also thrive well. Potatoes—the best known principle established by climatologists, that "cultivated plants yield their greatest and best products near the northern-most limits of their growth," applies with peculiar force to the production of potatoes with us. The mealy quality, the snowy whiteness, the farinaceous properties, and the exquisite flavor which distinguish the best article, reach perfection only in high latitudes.

The potatoes grown in Manitoba are well known to be unsurpassed in all the qualities named, while their prolific yield is not less remarkable. Turnips, parsnips, carrots, beets, and nearly all bulbous plants, do equally as well as potatoes.

STOCK RAISING.

The experience of many years shows that no physical impediment, arising from climate or soil, exists to prevent the prairies of our North-West becoming one of the best grazing countries in the world, and with the introduction of immigration, in few years, the beautiful prairies of the North-West will be enlivened by numerous flocks and herds, and the cattle trade, already springing into importance, will rapidly increase, or, without much difficulty, be diverted into a southern channel. For raising cattle and horses, this country is equal to the State of Illinois, and for sheep-raising it is far superior. The quality of the beef and mutton raised upon our northern grasses, has been pronounced of superior excellence. Among the peculiar advantages of Manitoba for stock-raising and wool growing, the most prominent are—1st. The richness and luxuriance of the native grasses. The grass is mainly cut on the swamps and meadows, which chequer the prairies, or fringe the streams and lakes. 2nd. The great extent of unoccupied land, affording for many years to come, a wide range of free pasturage. 3rd. The remarkable dryness and healthfulness of the winter. The

cold dry air sharpens the appetite, and promotes a rapid secretion of fat, and a vigorous muscular development. All point to stock-raising as one of the most important and promising of the diversified channels into which the industry of the immigrant and capitalist is to be directed. Notwithstanding the expensiveness and difficulty of stocking farms in a new country like this, where animals must be procured at a distance of hundreds of miles, the progress already made in this direction affords a gratifying proof of the rapid growth of this important interest.

SHEEP AND WOOL GROWING.

There is not room in this guide to give the subject of wool growing the attention which its importance deserves. The experience of forty years, and of some who have been engaged in the business in Australia, establishes beyond a reasonable doubt the following conclusions:

1.—That from the nature of our climate, and the general undulating character of the prairies, the richness of the grasses, and the purity of the waters, this country is adapted in an eminent degree to the healthful and profitable breeding of sheep.

2.—That sheep are entirely free from the diseases which cut them off, so largely in more southern climates.

3.—That the characteristic dryness of our winters, not only protects them from the casualties to which they are exposed in moister winter climates, but stimulates them to a more healthy and vigorous growth.

4.—That the naturalization of sheep imported from Illinois, Ohio, and other middle States of America, *improves the quality of their wool.*

5.—That it is by *far the most profitable branch of industry in which the settler with capital can engage,* especially in connection with stock-raising.

Prolific as is the soil, it is far from the Eastern markets, and the bulky and weighty products of the field largely consume themselves in the cost of transit. Wheat which is bought here for 60 cents, sells for 90 cents or $1.00 in Montreal or New York, costing the farmer 30 to 40 cents for transportation. A few years, it is true, will complete a great system of internal improvement by means of the Canadian Pacific Railway. But even then, it will be far more profitable to grow wool; the best information on this subject shows that it costs about 15 cents to produce a pound of wool, which sells here for 30 cents, yielding a nett profit of 15 cents per pound, and mutton at present commands from 12½ to 15 cents per pound. The cost of producing a bushel of wheat varies with the yield, the average cost being about $6.50 per acre, or about 32 cents per bushel for an average yield of 20 bushels to the acre. The average product of wool is not subject to fluctuation, and the price also is far steadier than that of breadstuffs. Well-fed ewes produce fleeces from 3 to 3½ pounds. Wethers produce fleeces from 6 to 8 pounds, the wool being of a good quality. All breeds stand the winter cold well, but the Cotswold the best. An instance came to the knowledge of the writer, where a flock of about twenty strayed away in the beginning of winter and were found in the spring fat, and none missing, but an addition to the flock in lambs. An experienced settler

writes as follows: "I believe this to be equal to any country for sheep growing. I prefer the Cotswold breed to any other for this country, as they are good shearers, prolific breeders, and good for mutton. My sheep have been troubled with no disease, but the dogs have killed and wounded some. I believe that in this branch of husbandry this country has few equals, and no superiors in any country on the globe."

DAIRY FARMING

Must also become in a few years an important source of wealth. It is now conducted on a very large scale in the other Provinces, in connection with cheese and butter factories for European consumption. In the Province of Ontario alone no less than 200 cheese factories being in operation, that Province deriving an income of nearly two millions of dollars a year from this single article of produce, and the quality esteemed almost as highly as the best English cheese.

With the progress of improved communications what a vast field is presented for the development of that branch of agricultural enterprise in this great grazing country.

UTILIZING THE BUFFALO.

In connection with stock raising on the Saskatchewan, the attention of the breeder of horned stock is drawn to the opportunities offered of rearing a clear stock whose qualities may become famous.

In Nebraska to-day, and other parts of the West, the Buffalo is being utilized for breeding purpose, with an encouraging degree of success.

A western American paper asserts that buffalo cows have been crossed with short-horn bulls, and that the progeny possess superior dairy qualities. Buffalo bulls are also used for crossing native cows. The male produce of this cross make excellent bulls, and, when crossed with good milkers of any of the milch families, the heifers yield largely of a rich quality of milk from which the finest butter can be made. In certain sections of Nebraska half and quarter bred buffalo stock is quite common.

Notwitstanding the dairy stock in that state crossed originally with the buffalo were of ordinary character, the half-bred yield an average of fourteen to fifteen to sixteen quarts per day, the milk being of a rich and fine flavor, making the best butter. These half-bred also take on flesh very rapidly, and make excellent beef. A remarkable feature connected with this cross of the buffalo with domestic cattle is the fact that the color of the bison and the majority of its distinguishing characteristics disappear after successive crossing. Its outward conformation is also, in process of time, in a great degree lost sight of. The hunch or lump of flesh covering the long spinous process of the dorsal vertebræ becomes diminished with each successive cross, and will, doubless, also disappear entirely as the original type becomes merged in the domestic animal.

Further experiments may show that decided advantages will come from these crosses, among which are increased hardiness and improved

dairy qualities. Perhaps no animal with which we are acquainted possesses such remarkable properties. His migratory habits and fitness for great extremes of heat and cold are the results of natural selection and the struggle for existence for untold centuries by which he has arrived at vigor of constitution, fleetness and muscular strength rarely, if at all, met with in the ox tribe. These are qualities of great value which cannot be disregarded, and particularly when we consider the direct and indirect advantages that judicious crossings of domestic animals have bestowed upon civilization to an extent not to be calculated. A full-grown buffalo will weigh from 1,200 to 2,000 pounds and even more. In winter his whole body is covered with long shaggy hair mixed with much wool. He roams at large throughout the Saskatchewan country, particularly in the rich valleys at the base of the Rocky Mountains, and annually thousands are slain merely for his robe, which is esteemed everywhere on this continent and in Europe. It is to be hoped that the enactment of judicious laws will in future put a stop to the past wanton destruction of this valuable animal. A correspondent of the *Turf, Field and Farm* gives some interesting facts regarding the domestication of the buffalo in Nebraska.

He began with two cows and a bull, which he kept with his tame stock. In the Spring the cows calved and in three years the calves became mothers, yielding an average of 14 quarts of the richest milk daily, for an average of five months. He adds that sufficient experiments have been made in crossing the buffalo with native and grade short horn cattle, and have been attended with such successful results, that the most sceptical people cannot fail to be satisfied, as to the advantages and value of the intermingling of breeds.

The Honorable James Mackay, a gentleman of long experience, a native of the country, and one of the most extensive and enterprising farmers and stock-raisers, is also experimenting in the same direction, with success, at his beautiful residence near Winnipeg, and will be happy at any time to afford fuller information to parties interested.

FRUITS.

The culture of fruit, especially the apple, has been almost entirely neglected heretofore in this region; probably on account of there generally being such an abundance of wild fruits, or the difficulty of procuring cuttings. For this and other reasons an erroneous impression has prevailed that we could not raise fruit or apple orchards—an extraordinary inference, when we consider that many forms of wild fruit are indigenous to the country, abounding in the woodlands, and unsurpassed in flavour, size and productiveness—the principal of which are strawberries, whortleberries, saskatoon, and marsh and high bush cranberries, therefore immigrants are not likely to suffer for want of fruit.

In Minnesota the wild plum improves so much by being transplanted and cultivated as to equal any of the garden varieties. The high-bush cranberry also improves by transplanting, and makes a beautiful ornament to the grounds about the prairie farmer's house.

The celebrated and delicious apple peculiar to the neighborhood of Montreal, known as the "*Fameuse*," will no doubt be successfully raised here; although we are nearly five degrees further north than Montreal, yet we are twenty-six degrees further west. Some young trees imported from Montreal are doing well; as also a variety from nurseries in Minnesota; the fruit raised from these cuttings having been exhibited at the last local Agricultural Exhibition. The "*Fameuse*" is a rich and beautiful apple, peculiar to the climate and soil of the Island of Montreal, a rich loam with a heavy clay subsoil, which retains the rooting, and prevents the growth of the tree pushing ahead too rapidly for the severe frosts of that latitude. It should be borne in mind that it is not the severity of the winter that kills the young apple tree, but the *alternate thawing and freezing* of the south side of the tree in the spring, which can be avoided by mulching and protecting the stem of the tree when young, by a wrapping of straw; with these precautions, and procuring plants from a suitable climate, or planting the seeds, and thus acclimatising, there is no reason why every farm may not have its orchard in this as in other parts of the Dominion.

FLAX AND HEMP.

The cultivation of these important crops was carried on to a considerable extent by old settlers many years ago, the product being of excellent quality, but the universal complaint at that time was the want of a market, or of machinery to work up the raw material, and this led them to discontinue this important branch of husbandry. Its cultivation is again renewed extensively by the Russian Mennonite settlers, of whom there are now between 8,000 and 10,000 in this country, who, within only three to four years, are, by their untiring industry, rapidly gaining the road to wealth.

It is well known that flax and hemp come only to perfection in a cool country; their bark in Southern climates is harsh and brittle, because the plant is forced into maturity so rapidly, that the lint does not acquire either consistency or tenacity. No doubt, the North-West of Canada will prove equal for flax and hemp growth to Northern Europe.

BEES

Thrive well in the North-West, as they require a clear dry atmosphere, and a rich harvest of flowers; if the air is damp, or the weather cloudy, they will not work so well. Another reason why they work less in a warm climate is, that the honey gathered remains too fluid for sealing a longer time, and, if gathered faster than it thickens, it sours and spoils. Our clear, bright skies, dry air and rich flora, are well adapted to the bee culture, and, since the process of burying bees during the winter has been introduced successfully in Minnesota, and generally adopted in the North-Western States, the length and coldness of our winter ceases to be an obstacle. In fact, experience in Minnesota proves that bees succeed better there, consume less honey during the winter, and the colony comes out much stronger than in warmer climates

GAME.

The prairies and forests abound in great variety of wild animals, among which are deer, bears, wolves, foxes, wild-cats, raccoons, and rabbits. Otter, mink, beaver and muskrat are the principal aquatic animals that frequent the water-courses. Buffalo in the Western prairies. Pigeons, grouse, partridges and prairie chickens are among the feathered game. In the Fall and Spring ducks and geese are found in immense numbers.

FISH.

The larger lakes abound in white fish, a delicious article of food, weighing from four to five pounds. The fisheries of the lakes, when properly developed, will form an important source of revenue. The rivers and streams abound in pickerel, pike, catfish, sturgeon, gold-eyes, &c., and trout in the mountain streams.

THE RIVERS.

The early pioneers of immigration will have great advantages in being able to appropriate the best lands and most eligible situations for wood and water, and from the tendency of population being governed primarily by the direction of the navigable waters, so will the pioneer lay the foundation of thriving towns along their great extent, to the foot of the Rocky Mountains.

Settlement is already extending westward for many miles beyond the present limits of Manitoba.

The Saskatchewan :—The North and South branches of the Saskatchewan, or Ki-sis-kah-chewun (the river that runs swift), have their sources in the Rocky Mountains, but a few miles apart. From their nearly common source the North branch diverges North-Eastward, and the South branch, or Bow River, Sout-Eastward, till at two hundred and fifty miles due Eastward they attain a distance of three hundred miles from each other, the South branch being there within forty-five miles of the frontier ; then gradually approaching, they meet at five hundred and fifty miles Eastward from their source.

The length of the North branch, by the manuscript field notes of a survey, is 772½ miles, and that of the South or main branch is about 810 miles.

From their junction the course of the main Saskatchewan to Lake Winnipeg is 282 miles, this makes the whole length of the Saskatchewan, from the source of the South branch, (which is the main stream) to Lake Winnipeg 1092 miles. Following the North branch the total length to Lake Winnipeg 1054½ miles. The foregoing figures are the result of a careful astronomical survey, made many years ago, by David Thompson, the North-West Company's astronomer, and this gives occasion to remark that the length of rivers and distances generally are much exagerated in new countries. Much of the extraordinary length and size attributed to rivers in the United States is due to this, and errors respecting them from this source have found their way into

standard works, such as Johnson's Physical Atlas. Its magnitude will be more fully understood by the following comparison:—The total length being 1864½ miles.

It is 184 miles longer than the Ganges.
" 1164 " " " " Rhine.
" 1649 " " " " Thames.
And only 376 miles shorter than the Nile.

In considering the character of the country, drained by the Saskatchewan it will be advisable to limit this guide to a brief description of the best localities suitable for pioneer settlement. Ascending from its mouth, at Lake Winnipeg, there are over two miles of strong current up to the Grand Rapids, which are nearly three miles in length, with a descent of 43½ feet. The country in the vicinity of the Grand Rapids has a considerable depth of good soil; the banks of the river are high; there is also abundance of timber for fuel and building, and game of all kinds, and between this point and the Lake would be very favorable for the establishment of fisheries. The Pas mission, situated at the mouth of the Pasquia River, is about 85 miles in a direct line from Lake Winnipeg; the banks here are ten or twelve feet high at low water, and the soil a rich dark mould over a drift clay. At this place there is at present a small but prosperous settlement, and a Church of England mission has been established for many years.

The next most favorable section for agriculture commences at a point about 140 miles above this, the soil being rich and the timber of a fair quality. The soil consists of a rich alluvial deposit, ten feet in thickness above the water on both sides of the river, and well wooded with large poplar, balsam, spruce and birch, some of the poplars measuring 2½ feet in diameter. This character of country continues till approaching Fort à la Corne, about 150 miles, and is well watered and drained by many fine creeks. A few miles West of this is the new and flourishing settlement of PRINCE ALBERT, situated on the South side of the North branch of the Saskatchewan, about 45 miles below Carleton and about 500 miles by the travelled road west of the City of Winnipeg. This settlement extends for about 30 miles along the Saskatchewan, the farms fronting on the river and extending back two miles. The settlers, though principally Scotch, are composed of English, Irish, German, Norwegians, Americans and Canadians. This settlement has increased rapidly, especially within the last two years, and now numbers about 600 souls, and the people are beginning to farm extensively. Wheat sells there at $1.40 to $1.50 per bushel; barley, $1.00; oats, $1.00; potatoes, $1.00; and butter, 37c. per lb., much higher prices than can be obtained at Winnipeg. Several of the settlers have commenced stock-raising on a large scale, and the facilities for this branch of industry are of no ordinary kind, inasmuch as there is abundance of hay and pasture. As an evidence of the prosperity of the settlement, it may be mentioned that good horses, waggons, light waggons, and buggies are found everywhere. The settlers have also the most approved agricultural implements, mowers, reapers, threshing

machines, &c. There are mills and stores and two schools in the settlement, one in connection with the Presbyterian Church, of which there are two, and the other in connection with the Episcopal Church. The North and South Saskatchewan run in a North-easterly direction for about 120 miles before they unite. The channels are almost parallel, and with an average distance of 20 to 25 miles apart. The land between the rivers is all good. Along the South side of the South branch the land also is good and fertile.

The seasons are much the same as in Manitoba, winter begins about the middle of November, and breaks up about the 10th April. The rivers are generally open about the 20th of April. Snow falls to the depth of about two feet, and continues all winter.

The climate is exceedingly healthy, and, owing to the rolling character of the prairie and the loamy nature of the soil, ploughing can be commenced whenever the snow is off the ground, and especially on land cultivated for any length of time. Summer frost never injures anything. The wheat, barley, oats, roots and vegetables raised at this settlement could scarcely be excelled in any part of the world.

The country drained by the North branch of the Saskatchewan from Prince Albert up to Edmonton—a distance of over five hundred miles by the river—as well as that by its extensive tributary, the Battle river, (near the mouth of which the town of Battleford, the new capital and seat of the North-West Territorial Government, is located,) is of a general uniform character, more or less interspersed with woods, and with the forests westward, sufficient for many years to come, to supply the wants of a large population. His Grace Archbishop Taché, in his valuable work on the North-West, speaks of the coal region of the Saskatchewan, in the following flattering terms:

"The coal fields which cross the different branches of the Saskatchewan are a great source of wealth, and form the settlement of the valley in which nature has multiplied picturesque scenery that challenges comparison with the most remarkable of its kind in the world."

Edmonton and its neighboring country presents, without doubt, a great field for colonization and commercial enterprise, and must become one of the most important stations of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Gold miners, or washers, range up and down the North Saskatchewan, for about one hundred and thirty miles, Edmonton being the central point of this distance. Those men who wash its bars for gold, make on an average four dollars per day. About thirty miles North of Edmonton, and 20 miles by the course of the river below Fort Edmonton, is a French Canadian settlement named Fort Jarvis where a detachment of the Mounted Police is quartered. This settlement is beautifully situated, the soil generally very rich, wood and water in abundance. It is pretty well settled along the banks of the Saskatchewan to Fort Edmonton, as also along the banks of a beautiful stream known as Sturgeon Creek, which runs nearly parallel for about forty to fifty miles, where St. Albert near its head, is reached, forming a neck of land, with an average width between the two rivers of about eight miles. Crossing this neck from Fort Edmonton, in a North-

Westerly direction, is rather an extensive lake which bears the name of Grand Lac, on the shores of which is situated St. ALBERT, a very prosperous French Canadian and Half-breed settlement. Here, is a fine Roman Catholic church, and a convent with several Sisters of Charity. This settlement is presided over by a Mission of French Roman Catholic clergymen of the order of Oblats, and the See of a Bishopric, headed by Bishop Grondin, of the same order and nationality, and a gentleman of culture and high mental excellence. Attached to this mission is a large good school, which is at present attended by about eighty children of the settlement, and was established in 1861 by the celebrated author of several valuable works on the Indian languages of the North-West, the Rev. Father LaCombe, St. Albert, the beautiful site for the mistion, having been selected by His Grace Archbishop Taché, and named after the Patron Saint of the former zealous missionary. After ascending the Sturgeon Creek, forty-five miles, is met the beautiful and extensive Lake Ste. Anne. This lake is one of the most lovely in the North-West, and abounding in white fish of the best and largest quality. There are numerous settlers round the lake, principally French Half-breeds, and on the North end of the lake is situated another Roman Catholic Mission, established in 1844 by the Rev. Mr. Thibault. The land is equally good here, but for several miles from the lake heavily timbered.

THE FORKS OF THE NORTH AND SOUTH BRANCH.

Immediately above the Forks, the south branch of the Saskatchewan is only one hundred and eighty yards in width, but the current is swift, and the average depth seven feet and a half; there it is less in volume and not half the width that it is two hundred and twenty miles further up. This important point has every prospect of becoming a large commercial and manufacturing centre, the surrounding country being of unsurpassed fertility, and commanding valuable natural resources, through the immense system of navigation which centres there. Looking Northward, the country beyond the North branch of the Saskatchewan is densely covered with an unusually large growth of spruce, tamarac, birch and poplar timber, in sufficient quantities to supply a settlement of almost any extent for many years, after which the extensive forests at the base of the Rocky Mountains, manufactured into lumber and floated down the same river, will be available for its needs in building, and the unrivalled coal beds of the Upper Saskatchewan will furnish abundance of cheap fuel. To the South and West spreads the beautiful "Park Country," which has given the Saskatchewan farmers natural fields of generally the richest land, dotted with lakes and groves. In 1874, an English gentleman on a hunting tour, attracted by the advantages offered by this location, established, at great cost, in the settlement of Prince Albert, a steam saw and grist mill, the first in the Saskatchewan country. Such enterprises and such men are the milestones of a country's progress towards settlement and empire. Hereafter many mills will be established on the fertile banks of the Saskatchewan, through the enterprise of other capitalists to follow. About 60 miles by the river, above its junction with the North branch, is another good

settlement called St. Laurent, and here the main high road crosses the river. The two branches run nearly parallel, forming a neck of land about 20 miles in width, the land being of the very best quality, prettily wooded and dotted with numerous small and pretty lakes. All this neck will rapidly fill up with settlers, presenting, as it does, unusual inducements. The present population is also principally French Half-breeds, numbering about 400. A Roman Catholic mission is established here, with two resident priests, and a school. About twenty miles West, following the main highway, is DUCK LAKE, one of the numerous small lakes above referred to. There is the nucleus of a very flourishing settlement here, which will, no doubt, rapidly increase. An enterprising and wealthy English firm have an extensive store and trading-post established at this point. The character of the country around is very similar to that described at St. Laurent. For about 130 miles up its course, or 100 miles in direct distance, its valley preserves the same character as that of the main river between the Forks and Fort à la Corne, the banks varying from 100 to 40 feet in height, exposing sandstone cliffs, where, cut by the bends of the river, the country on each side having a rich soil, with abundant woods in clumps and groves for a great part of the way. Above this it becomes gradually less wooded. Seventy miles further up, or nearly 100 miles by its course, the "Moose Woods" are reached—a rich alluvial expansion of the low valley of the river, partly wooded with rich glades between. It is 25 miles in length and 6 or 8 miles in breadth, and well adapted for stock-raising. Thirty-five miles above this the South branch approaches the Cypress Hills, which extend one hundred and sixty miles. This section is also well adapted for stock-raising, being covered with fine timber, abounding in excellent grass, and well watered. *Battle River* enters the North branch of the Saskatchewan, about one hundred and seventy miles above the Main Forks. It drains a large part of the country between the North and South branches. It has its source about 10 miles from the North branch, 30 miles above Edmonton, but they are 130 miles apart at the middle of its course, and between them the pasturage is very rich. Coal presents itself there in the banks of the stream, 250 miles from its mouth. The rich prairie country which covers the course of the Battle River and the Northerly part of Red Deer River, and includes the North branch from the Forks up to 30 miles above Edmonton, has a breadth of about 100 miles at the Forks; 70 miles at the mouth of Battle River; 150 miles at its middle course, and about 70 at its source, beyond which the belt of fertile prairie becomes gradually narrower, and, turning to the Southward up the course of the Red Deer River, becomes merged in the fertile region on the skirt of the mountains below Bow Fort on the South branch. It is bounded on the North by the line of the Thick woods, which sweep Northerly parallel to the course of the North branch, at the distance of 40 to 20 miles beyond it, then coursing to the Southward, crosses it about 30 miles above Edmonton, and, continuing in that direction, strikes the mountains near Bow Fort, making a circuit from the Forks of about 700 miles. The climate of this section is decidedly milder

than that of Manitoba. Battle River runs, from its junction, nearly parallel with the North branch of the Saskatchewan for about eight miles, making a tongue of land between, and on this tongue or point is the new town of Battleford, distant about 700 miles by the travelled road West of the city of Winnipeg, the site of the new capital and seat of Government, and is also headquarters of the Mounted Police. At this point the Canadian Pacific Railway will cross the river, touching the Saskatchewan again near Edmonton, about 200 miles West. From this, there is direct communication by telegraph to all parts of the world. Public buildings, stores and dwellings are in rapid progress, a newspaper is published fortnightly at present, and it has every prospect of becoming an important commercial centre. Yet, wonderful to relate, three years ago Battleford was a place without a name or even a sign of civilization. Canada may indeed now say a great future beckons us, as a people, onward. The first message by telegraph from this hitherto unknown region to inform the outer world of its existence was despatched on the 6th day of April, 1876.

There is a fortnightly express, carrying Her Majesty's mail and passengers between Winnipeg, Battleford, and Edmonton. Several pioneers have already taken up claims along the route between the two latter points.

Red Deer, *Bow*, and *Belly Rivers* are tributaries of the South branch of the Saskatchewan, having their source in the Eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains, between parallel 50° and 52° N., and drain a beautiful and most fertile region, eight times greater in extent than the present Province of Manitoba, and already settlers are flocking into this inviting country.

Fort Calgarry, a station of the Mounted Police, on the Bow River, is situated at the junction of Bow and Elbow Rivers, on a beautiful flat, as level as a cricket ground, and of immense extent. Buffalo in great abundance, and the rivers filled with fine mountain trout of great size, and the climate much milder than in Manitoba or the North Saskatchewan, and, if not quite equal for farming in grain raising, will, from its vast extent of rich nutritious grasses, become the great stock-raising country of the North-West. At Fort McLeod, a few miles further South on the Belly River, where two troops of the Mounted Police are stationed, they have a theatre and billiard-table, which proves how civilization is gradually stealing over the "Great Lone Land."

There are many other tributaries of the Saskatchewan, but the limits of this guide will not permit of describing more than the main rivers of primary importance for pioneer settlement.

The Assiniboine.—This river, with its rich and beautiful valleys, by its very winding course, is over 600 miles in length. For 220 miles in direct distance from its mouth, its course is nearly West, and above that its course for upwards of 200 miles in direct distance is north-westerly, lying nearly parallel to Lake Winnipeg, at a distance of 240 miles West of it. At 220 miles West from its mouth, where it turns northward, it receives its tributary, the river Qu'Appelle, which con-

tinues directly westward 250 miles further, having its source near the elbow of the South branch of the Saskatchewan, 470 miles directly westward from the mouth of the Assiniboine, at the city of Winnipeg, in Manitoba. Ascending the Assiniboine from its mouth, for upwards of 70 miles, to the Sand Hills, the country through which it flows within the Province of Manitoba is of the same rich alluvial character as the Red River. Beyond that is a sandy tract, 50 miles in length westward. Then for about 100 miles further West, to where it turns northward at the mouth of the Qu'Appelle, and for nearly 50 miles North of that, the Assiniboine may be considered the boundary line between the rich prairie region and the inferior and light sandy soil South and West of it.

Between the Sand Hills and the Qu'Appelle, the Assiniboine receives on the North side five considerable tributaries, from fifty to one hundred and fifty miles in length. Their courses being through a very fertile region, one of them, the *Rapid River*, or *Little Saskatchewan*, indicates their general character. This stream is beautiful and rapid, navigable for one hundred miles for canoes and bateaux, flowing through a beautiful valley, large open flats frequently occurring on both sides of the river, where the richness of the grass and the beauty of the various flowers prove the great fertility of the soil—places marked out by nature to be cultivated and inhabited by man. This section is now thickly settled, and for some distance westward to its junction with the Assiniboine on the outskirts of the present limits of the Province of Manitoba, there is abundance of good-sized poplar and balsam spruce, sufficiently large for building and farming purposes. The main high road to the Saskatchewan crosses this river at a point about twenty miles, by its course, from its confluence with the Assiniboine, and from thence westward continues through a beautiful and fertile country, dotted with numerous small lakes, the principal one being Shoal Lake, situated about thirty-five miles Westward and half way to Fort Ellice. From the Little Saskatchewan, where the road crosses the Assiniboine, this lake is distant about one hundred and seventy-five miles from the city of Winnipeg. On reaching it the eye of the traveller is suddenly caught with the view of a magnificent sheet of pure, crystal-like water stretching away to his right some four miles, surrounded by gravelly and sandy shores, and fringed here and there with thick belts of timber, mostly poplar. This is said to be only one of a succession of beautiful lakes stretching from the Riding Mountains, some twenty-five miles to the North, to the Assiniboine River, about thirty miles to the South. In Spring and Autumn especially, myriads of wild fowl are to be seen popping over the surface of these waters, which also abound with fish. All of this, in connection with deer hunting, (which can be had within easy distance), affords excellent pastime for the sportsman. The advantages for settlement, particularly for stock raising, although the excellence of the soil for agricultural purposes cannot be doubted, are not only numerous, but strongly inviting. The picturesque and undulating country for many miles around, thickly dotted with bluffs of poplar,

with occasional large marshes intervening, afford abundance of both fuel and hay for the settler. There is also a post office and mail station established here in connection with the mail line between Winnipeg and Edmonton. It is also a station of the Mounted Police, and will no doubt become very soon a place of some importance.

The large increasing immigration continually moving westward, will create an excellent market at this point.

The upper affluent of the Assiniboine, known as the *Qu'Appelle* or *Calling River*, from its mouth at Fort Ellice runs through a delightful valley, and of which the expansion forms eight lakes, where the best kind of white fish abounds, and, although somewhat sparsely wooded, is well fitted for settlement. The lakes and ponds of this country abound with ducks and geese; the hillsides of the valley are deeply ravined and wooded. The wild hop grows very luxuriously on the belt of woods on the South side of the lakes, till the fourth lake is reached, when the prairie becomes absolutely treeless. The *Souris* or *Mouse River* enters the Assiniboine from the South in the midst of a very lovely undulating country, near where the *Rapid River* enters. It was in following up the Souris River for a part of its course that the early explorers of Red River also discovered the head of the great Missouri River, and thence they pushed their exploration to the Rocky Mountains before any civilized man had seen their western slopes, at least in that latitude. For many miles from its mouth it flows through a beautiful undulating country, and vast prairie of a dark rich green, and well wooded. The valley is narrow, but rich and beautiful; above that, Westward, and South, where it enters the United States, it in a great measure may be considered generally of a valueless character, lying on the edge of the great American desert.

The *Swan River* enters a bay on the North end of Lake Winnipegoos, and is about two hundred miles in length by its course. Near its mouth there are some very valuable salt springs, as also on Lake Winnipegoos, the brine of which, taken from the surface, is as strong as any of the celebrated salt works in the United States. The brine is very pure, yielding upwards of a bushel of salt from 30 to 40 gallons of water from the surface, proved by the practical experience of the writer. These springs will prove a valuable source of wealth, when with the rapid development of the country, extensive fisheries are established and communications improved. Ascending the river from Swan Lake, which is about six miles from its mouth, for two miles or so the banks are rather low; in the succeeding ten miles they gradually attain a height of nearly one hundred feet, where landslips occur in many places; the banks expose an alluvial soil of great depth, resting on drift clay. About thirty miles above Swan Lake the prairie region fairly commences. There the river winds about in a beautiful valley, the banks of which rise to the height of eighty or one hundred feet. Beyond this an apparently unbroken level extends on one side for a distance of fifteen or twenty miles to the Porcupine Hills, and for an equal distance on the other, to the high table land called the Duck Mountain. From this South-Westward to Thunder Mountain, a traveller says: "*The country is the finest I have ever seen in a state of*

nature; the prospect is bounded by the blue outline of the hills named in the plain, alternate wood and prairie present an appearance more pleasing than if either entirely prevailed; it seemed as if it wanted but the presence of human habitations to give it the appearance of a highly cultivated country." The line of the Canadian Pacific Railway crosses the Swan River in this region.

THE COLONY SYSTEM.

The system of emigrating in small colonies will be found very advantageous to the pioneers, as well as economical; neighbors in the old land may be neighbors in the new; friends may settle near each other, form communities and the nucleus of new settlements and towns, establish schools and, in short, avoid many of the traditional hardships which have usually attended pioneer life. The colony system is also calculated to supply the needs of all members of the community, and to furnish employment to every industry. Whenever a colony is established there will soon be near its centre the storekeeper, blacksmith, carpenter, etc., post office, school house and church, and, with the progress of the Canadian Pacific Railway and Steamboat navigation, a market. Until then an ample market, commanding high prices, is created in the interior by the influx of following settlers and the rapidly increasing trade.

The attention of the capitalist intending to emigrate is drawn to the importance and mutual advantage of this system, in which capital, directed by sagacity and enterprise, possesses such unquestionable advantages, united with industry and a plucky purpose, and in no place under the sun could it reap better rewards than under the bright skies and healthful atmosphere of this fair land.

ROUTE, ETC.

The immigrant from Europe, on arrival at Quebec, may travel direct through by railway to St. Boniface in about four days' travelling time. St. Boniface is the terminus in Manitoba, and situated immediately opposite the City of Winnipeg, the commercial centre; the most direct route being as follows: Quebec, by Grand Trunk Railway, *via* Sarnia and Port Huron to Detroit, in the State of Michigan; thence by Michigan Central to Chicago—Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway—on the Chicago, St. Paul and Minneapolis Line, (*see advertisements*), to St. Paul, in Minnesota; St. Paul to St. Boniface, by the St. Paul and Pacific, and Pembina Branch of the Canadian Pacific Railway, the total distance being about 2,000 miles, first-class fare being $51.85, and by immigrant cars, which are comfortably fitted up, $34. Special rates are made for colonists or immigrants going through in large parties together; information regarding which may be had from any of the Government Immigration Agents. The rates through to New York or Boston are about the same as from Quebec.

If the lake route is preferred, it is as follows: Quebec to Toronto, 505 miles; thence by Northern railway to Collingwood, on Lake Huron, where you embark on board one of the fine steamers of the Collingwood and Lake Superior Line to Duluth; thence by railway to Manitoba.

Another route is from Sarnia to Duluth by the North-West Transportation Company's steamers. The time by lake route, Quebec to Manitoba, is from about eight days. First-class rates the same as the all-rail route; second-class, $27.50.

OUTFIT, PRICES, &c.

Immigrants and others can purchase agricultural implements, stoves, iron, and tin ware, groceries, in fact all necessary outfit in Manitoba, nearly as cheap as in the Eastern part of Canada, and save all risk and trouble and expense of extra baggage, &c. A necessary and important item in the outfit, is a good tent with poles, for the journey after leaving Winnipeg, as well as for accomodation until a small house can be built. A good supply of bedding with a large sized water-proof, or India rubber blanket, which will be found of great value to lay next the ground, and thereby always keep the bedding dry and comfortable; each family should also be possessed of a small assortment of the usual aperient medicines, Pain Killer, &c., in case of accidents.

In order to get a fair start, a family should have on entering their land at least means for the purchase of a year's provisions for a family of five, say	$200 00
One Yoke of Oxen, say	130 00
One Cow	30 00
One Waggon	90 00
Breaking Plough and Harrow	30 00
Chains, Shovel, Tools, &c., say	20 00
Cook Stove, with furniture	25 00
Seeds, &c	10 00
Building contingencies, say	30 00
In all	$565 00

equal in sterling money to about £113. With this, the family by ordinary industry will find themselves after the first year, with a comfortable home, independent, and increasing in value and number of acres. Each member of the family at the age of 16 years adding to the estate. The above estimate of necessaries is merely offered as a guide, and may be increased according to the desire, intentions and means at the family's disposal, by several forming themselves into a small colony, and taking up land adjoining each other, great economy and mutual assistance can be effected, as already referred to, under the head of "The Colony System."

To the less fortunate immigrant, who may not have sufficient means left after his arrival in the country, to go direct on his land, the extensive public works, in the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, fortunately offer immediate employment to the able and willing, until he has saved sufficient means to enable him to commence farming on a small scale as his own master. And this will continue for years until the completion of the work across the continent.

The following is added as a detailed list of present prices at Winnipeg:—

Waggons, complete	$90 00
" without box	70 00
Extra prairie breaking plough	27 00

Sub-soil breaking plough, 12 inches		42 00
Cross-plough, 10 inches		13 00
Cultivators, 5 teeth		10 00
Scythes		1 10
Chains, 12½ cts. per lb		
Mowers	$85 00 to	$100 00
Harrows, 8 bar	15 00 to	00 00
Fanning Mills	35 00 to	00 00
Nails, 5 cts. per lb		
Iron, 7 " "		
In building material :—		
Window sashes from	$1 50 to	$3 00
" frames	1 25 to	2 00
Door frames, inside	1 00	
" " outside	2 00	
Panel doors	1 80 to	2 50

If the immigrant reaches his land by the middle of June, he is too late to produce most crops the same season, but he is yet in time for corn, (maize) potatoe and turnips.

For the first, let him turn over the virgin sod, chop holes therein, with an axe, and drop in the seed. The second may be dropped into the furrow, and covered by the plough with the tough sod; while turnip seed may be sown on the freshly turned sod, and will grow through. This make shift to start with, will produce a tolerable crop.

The abundance of unoccupied land affords a wide range of free pasturage for his stock, and relieves him from the necessity of immediate fencing. If the settler be provided with considerable means, and aims at larger operations and quicker results, he may to considerable advantage invest in

PRIVATE LANDS.

Unimproved lands of the best description, in the hands of private owners, and within a few miles of city or village, can be purchased at from $2 to $10 per acre, partially upon credit. Lands of the best quality are offered at $5 to $20 per acre, within three to six miles of the rapidly-growing city of Winnipeg, where high prices are eagerly paid for all garden and dairy products, and where manure is gladly given to farmers who will haul it away. Farms of various degrees of improvement are frequently offered for sale at from $5 to $15 per acre, such price being often less than the cost of the buildings and fences. These cases occur not from the undesirable character of the property, so much as from the restlessness and love of change, characteristic of the people of the country.

PUBLIC LANDS.

Under the provisions of the Dominion Public Lands' Act (*for which, see official notice at end*), a vast area of land abounding in all the elements of health, beauty, and fertility, of much greater extent than many of the principalities of Europe, is open for the landless of all nations of the earth, to enter upon and possess, who may be the head of a family, male or female, or who has attained the age of eighteen years, may become the owner of a farm of 160 acres without paying for it, by simply cultivating and residing upon the land for three years, and the land thus acquired without cost (with the exception of

the office fee for entry, of $10), is exempt by law from liabilities for all debts previously contracted, thereby showing that we have no limitation as to the value of the farm or residence thus secured to the family; whatever its value *may become*, it remains the shelter, the castle, the home of the family, to cluster round in the hour of gloom and disaster, as securely as they were wont to do in the sunshine of prosperity. Such an exemption law will be found a blessing to thousands of worthy men, women and children.

Here every man may enjoy the reward of his labor, and become an independent land proprietor. However poor, he may possess equal rights, and equal political opportunities, with the rich and prosperous.

All information as to the nature of particular localities, where the immigrant may desire to settle, will be afforded him for his guidance by the officers of the Dominion Lands Branch of the Department of Interior at Winnipeg, or any of the district offices.

IN CONCLUSION.

We would again repeat the North-West of Canada invites the honest and industrious, however friendless, to make themselves free homes, in a country blessed with British constitutional laws, ample protection to life and property, a healthy climate, and a fertile soil.

The object of this guide is to *present the facts to the world* as briefly as possible, relative to this portion of the Dominion of Canada, to those who desire to know them, in such a shape, as may be worthy of careful perusal, and desirable to keep for reference, taking conscientious care to willingly deceive no one. Cruel is the writer who draws immigrants to any country by gross misrepresentations. Changing one's home is to all a serious event. Shiftless discontent transforms many a man into a pioneer, who, finding a new country not a Paradise, send back evil reports of the land. No matter how milk and honey may abound, no matter how large and luscious are the grapes of Eschol, they are nothing to some tall sons of Anak, who becoming, in the face of difficulties, as "grasshoppers in their own sight," soon desire to return into Egypt.

On the contrary, nearly all of those who count the cost before starting, and who convince themselves they are able to overcome those tall sons of Anak, succeed in subduing the land and enter into possession of the milk and honey. All intending emigrants should remember that a new country like this is not the idler's paradise, that all its mines of wealth are surrounded by bustling difficulties. Its great superiority is that it is *a land of opportunities.*

Here as in no other portions of this continent are *openings* to-day that yield their wealth to brains, energy, pluck, whether with or without capital, more than is actually necessary to start with fairly; and if a man wants to work honestly for what he has, he can do it as well here as in any land beneath the sun. In a few short years our yet undeveloped wealth will astonish the world, when our coal and iron mines are laid bare, when our vast plains and hills are covered with flocks and herds, when our valleys supply grain to Europe and the East, and the great Canadian Pacific Railway links England, Canada, Japan, and China, in one great belt of commerce and mutual prosperity.

THE END.

REGULATIONS

Respecting the Disposal of certain Public Lands for the purposes of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Ottawa, October 14, 1879.

Public notice is hereby given that the following provisions, which shall be held to apply to the lands in the Province of Manitoba, and in the Territories to the west and north-west thereof, are substituted for the Regulations, dated the 9th July last, governing the mode of disposing of the Public Lands situate within 110 (one hundred and ten) miles on each side of the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, which said Regulations are hereby susperseded:

1. "Until further and final survey of the said railway has been made west of the Red River, and for the purposes of these provisions, the line of the said railway shall be assumed to be on the fourth base westerly to the intersection of the said base by the line between ranges 21 and 22 west of the first principal meridian, and thence in a direct line to the confluence of the Shell River with the River Assiniboine.

2. "The country lying on each side of the line of railway shall be respectively divided into belts, as follows:

"(1) A belt of five miles on either side of the railway, and immediately adjoining the same, to be called Belt A:

"(2) A belt of fifteen miles on either side of the railway, adjoining Belt A, to be called Belt B;

"(3) A belt of twenty miles on either side of the railway, adjoining Belt B, to be called Belt C;

"(4) A belt of twenty miles on either side of the railway, adjoining Belt C, to be called Belt D; and

"(5) A belt of fifty miles on either side of the railway, adjoining Belt D, to be called Belt E.

3. "The even-numbered sections in each township throughout the several belts above described, shall be open for entry as homesteads and pre-emptions of 160 acres each, respectively.

4. "The odd-numbered sections in each of such townships shall not be open to homestead or pre-emption, but shall be specially reserved and designated as Railway Lands.

5. "The Railway Lands within the several belts shall be sold at the following rates, viz: In Belt A, $5 (five dollars) per acre; in Belt B, $4 (four dollars) per acre; in Belt C, $3 (three dollars) per acre; in Belt D, $2 (two dollars) per acre;

in Belt E, $1 (one dollar) per acre; and the terms of sale of such lands shall be as follows, viz: One-tenth in cash at the time of purchase; the balance in nine equal annual instalments, with interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum on the balance of purchase money from time to time remaining unpaid, to be paid with each instalment.

6. "The Pre-emption Lands within the several belts shall be sold for the prices and on the terms respectively as follows: In the Belts A, B, and C, at $2.50 (two dollars and fifty cents) per acre; in Belt D, at $2 (two dollars) per acre; and in Belt E, at $1 (one dollar) per acre. The terms of payment to be four-tenths of the purchase money, together with interest on the latter at the rate of six per cent. per annum, to be paid at the end of three years from the date of entry; the remainder to be paid in six equal instalments annually from and after the said date, with interest at the rate above mentioned on such portions of the purchase money as may remain unpaid, to be paid with each instalment.

7. "All payments for Railway Lands, and also for Pre-emption Lands, within the several Belts, shall be in cash, and not in scrip or military or police bounty warrants.

8. "All moneys received in payment of Pre-emption Lands shall inure to and form part of the fund for railway purposes, in a similar manner to the moneys received in payment of Railway Lands.

9. "These provisions shall be retroactive so far as relates to any and all entries of Homestead and Pre-emption Lands, or sales of Railway Lands obtained or made under the Regulations of the 9th of July, hereby superseded; any payments made in excess of the rate hereby fixed shall be credited on account of sales of such lands.

10. "The Order-in-Council of the 9th November, 1877, relating to the settlement of the lands in Manitoba which had been previously withdrawn for Railway purposes, having been cancelled, all claims of persons who settled in good faith on lands under the said Order-in-Council shall be dealt with under these provisions, as to price of Pre-emptions, according to the belt in which such lands may be situate. Where a person may have taken up two quarter-sections under the said Order-in-Council, he may retain the quarter-section upon which he has settled, as a Homestead, and the other quarter-section as a Pre-emption, under these provisions, irrespective of whether such Homestead and Pre-emption may be found to be upon an even-numbered section or otherwise. Any moneys paid by such person on account of the lands entered by him under the said Order-in-Council, will be credited to him on account of his Pre-emption purchase, under these provisions. A person who may have taken up one quarter-section under the Order-in-Council mentioned will be allowed to retain the same as a Homestead, and will be permitted to enter a second quarter-section as a Pre-emption, the money paid on account of the land previously entered to be credited to him on account of such Pre-emption.

11. "All entries of lands shall be subject to the following provisions respecting the right of way of the Canadian Pacific Railway, or of any Government colonization railway connected therewith, viz:

a "In the case of the railway crossing land entered as a Homestead, the right of way thereon, and also any land which may be required for station purposes, shall be free to the Government.

b "Where the railway crosses Pre-emptions or Railway Lands, entered subsequent to the date hereof, the Government may take possession of such portion thereof as may be required for right of way or for station grounds or ballast pits, and the owner shall only be entitled to claim payment for the land so taken, at the same rate per acre as he may have paid the Government for the same.

c "In case, on the final location of the railway through lands unsurveyed, or surveyed but not entered for at the time, a person is found in occupation of land which it may be desirable in the public interest to retain, the Government reserves the right to take possession of such land, paying the squatter the value of any improvements he may have made thereon.

12. "Claims to Public Lands arising from settlement after the date hereof, in territory unsurveyed at the time of such settlement, and which may be embraced within the limits affected by the above policy, or by the extension thereof in the future over additional territory, will be ultimately dealt with in accordance with the terms prescribed above for the lands in the particular belt in which such settlement may be found to be situate, subject to the operation of sub-section *c* of section 11 of these provisions.

13. "All entries after the date hereof of unoccupied lands in the Saskatchewan Agency, will be considered as provisional until the railway line through that part of the territories has been located, after which the same will be finally disposed of in accordance with these provisions, as the same may apply to the particular belt in which such lands may be found to be situated, subject, as above, to the operation of sub-section *c* of section 11 of these provisions.

14. "With a view to encouraging settlement by cheapening the cost of building material, the Government reserves the right to grant licenses, renewable yearly, under Section 52 of the '*Dominion Lands Act*, 1879,' to cut merchantable timber on any lands situated within the several belts above described, and any settlement upon, or sale of lands within, the territory covered by such licenses, shall for the time being be subject to the operation of such licenses.

15. "The above provisions, it will, of course, be understood will not affect sections 11 and 29, which are public school lands, or sections 8 and 26, Hudson's Bay Company's lands.

"Any further information necessary may be obtained on application at the Dominion Lands Office, Ottawa, or from the Agent of Dominion Lands, Winnipeg, or from any of the local agents in Manitoba or the Territories."

By order of the Minister of the Interior.

J. S. DENNIS,
DEPUTY OF THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR.

LINDSAY RUSSELL,
Surveyor-General.

PROVISIONS RESPECTING

Dominion Public Lands and Homestead Rights.

HOMESTEAD RIGHTS.

ALL PERSONS interested in obtaining HOMESTEAD GRANTS or purchasing DOMINION LANDS will give attention to the following provisions respecting the Public Lands of the Dominion:

Unappropriated Dominion Lands, the surveys of which have been duly made and confirmed, shall, except as otherwise hereinafter provided, be open for purchase at the rate of one dollar per acre; but no such purchase of more than a section, or six hundred and forty acres, shall he made by the same person, provided that whenever so ordered by the Minister of the Interior, such unoccupied lands as may be deemed expedient from time to time, may be withdrawn from ordinary sale or settlement and offered at public sale (of which sale due and sufficient notice will be given) at the upset price of one dollar per acre, and sold to the highest bidder.

Payment for lands, purchased in the ordinary manner, shall be made in cash, except in the case of payment by scrip, or in military bounty warrants, as provided by law.

Any person, male or female, who is the sole head of a family, or any mail who has attained the age of eighteen years, shall be entitled to be entered for one-quarter section, or a less quantity, of unappropriated Dominion Lands, for the purpose of securing a Homestead Right in respect thereof.

The entry of a person for a homestead right shall entitle him to receive at the same time therewith any entry for an adjoining quarter section then unclaimed, and such entry shall entitle such person to take and hold possession of and cultivate such quarter section in addition to his homestead, but not to cut wood thereon for sale or barter; and at the expiration of a period of three years, or upon the sooner obtaining a patent for the homestead under the fifteenth sub-section of section thirty-three of "The Dominion Lands Act," shall entitle him to pre-emption of the said adjoining quarter section at the Government price of one dollar per acre; but the right to claim such pre-emption shall cease and be forfeited, together with all improvements on the land, upon any forfeiture of the homestead right under the Dominion Lands Act.

When two or more persons have settled on and seek to obtain a title to the same land, the Homestead Right shall be in him who made the first settlement.

Every person claiming a Homestead Right on surveyed land must, previous to settlement on such land, be duly entered therefor with the Local Agent within whose District such land may be situate; but in the case of a claim from actual settlement in then unsurveyed lands, the claimant must file such application within three months after due notice has been received at the Local Office of such land having been surveyed, and the survey thereof confirmed; and proof of settlement and improvement shall be made to the Local Agent at the time of filing such application.

A person applying for leave to be entered for lands with a view of securing a Homestead Right therein, must make affidavit before the Local Agent (Form B, Dominion Lands Act), that he is over eighteen years of age, that he has not previously obtained a Homestead under the provisions of the Dominion Lands Act; that the land in question belongs to the class open for Homestead entry; that there is no person residing or having improvements thereon; and that his application is made for his exclusive use and benefit, and with the intention to reside upon and cultivate the said lands.

Upon making this Affidavit and filing it with the Local Agent (and on payment to him of an office fee of *ten dollars*, for which he shall receive a receipt from the Agent) he shall be permitted to enter the land specified in the application.

No patent shall be granted for the land until the expiration of *three years* from the time of entering into possession of it, except as herinafter provided.

At the expiration of three years the settler or his widow, her heirs or devisees—or, if the settler leaves no widow, his heirs or devisees—upon proof to the satisfaction of the Local Agent that he or his widow, or his or her representatives as aforesaid, or some of them, have (except in the case of entry upon contiguous lands as hereinbefore provided) resided upon and cultivated the land for the three years next after the fyling of the affidavit for entry, or, in the case of a settler on unsurveyed land, who may, upon the same being surveyed, have fyled his application as provided in sub-section five, upon proof, as aforesaid, that he or his widow, or his or their representatives, as aforesaid, or some of them, have resided upon and cultivated the land for the three years next preceding the application for Patent, shall be entitled to a Patent for the land, provided such claimant is then a subject of Her Majesty by birth or naturalization.

Provided always, that the right of the claimant to obtain a patent under the said sub-section, as amended, shall be subject to the provisions of section fifteen, herein lastly quoted.

Provided further, that in case of settlements being formed of immigrants in communities (such, for instance, as those of Mennonites or Icelanders), the Minister of the Interior may vary or waive, in his discretion, the foregoing requirements as to residence and cultivation on each separate quarter-section entered as a Homestead.

When both parents die, without having devised the land, and leaving a child or children under age, it shall be lawful for the executors (if any) of the last surviving parent, or the guardian or guardians of such child or children, with the approval of a Judge of a Superior Court of the Province or Territory in which the lands lie, to sell the lands for the benefit of the infant or infants, but for no other purposes, and the purchaser in such case shall receive a Patent for the lands so purchased.

The title to lands shall remain in the Crown until the issue of the Patent therefor; and such lands shall not be liable to be taken in execution before the issue of the Patent.

In case it is proved to the satisfaction of the Minister of the Interior that the settler has voluntarily relinquished his claim, or has been absent from the land entered

by him for more than *six months* in any one year without leave of absence from the Minister of the Interior, then the right to such land shall be liable to forfeiture, and may be cancelled by the said Minister; and the settler so relinquishing or abandoning his claim shall not be permitted to make more than a second entry.

Any person who has availed himself of the foregoing provisions may, before the expiration of the three years, obtain a patent for the land entered upon by him, including the wood lot, if any, appertaining to the same as hereinafter provided, on paying the Government price thereof, at the date of entry, and making proof of settlement and cultivation for not less than twelve months from the date of entry.

Proof of actual settlement and cultivation shall be made by affidavit of the claimant before the Local Agent, corroborated on oath by two credible witnesses.

The Minister of the Interior may at any time order an inspection of any homestead or homesteads in reference to which there may be reason to believe the foregoing provisions as regards settlement and cultivation, have not been or are not being carried out, and may, on a report of the facts cancel the entry of such Homestead or Homesteads; and in the case of a cancelled Homestead, with or without improvements thereon, the same shall not be considered as of right open for fresh entry. but may be held for sale of the land and of the improvements thereon, in connection with a fresh Homestead entry thereof, at the discretion of the Minister of the Interior.

All assignments and transfers of Homestead rights before the issue of the patent shall be null and void, but shall be deemed evidence of abandonment of the right; and the person so assigning or transferring shall not be permitted to make a second entry.

Any person who may have obtained a Homestead entry shall be considered, unless and until such entry be cancelled, as having an exclusive right to the land so entered as against any other person or persons whomsoever, and may bring and maintain action for trespass committed on the said land or any part thereof.

The provisions relating to Homesteads shall only apply to agricultural lands; that is to say, they shall not be held to apply to lands set apart as timber limits, or as hay lands, or to lands valuable for stone or marble quarries, or to those having water-power thereon which may be used for driving machinery.

Any Homestead claimant who, previous to the issue of the patent, shall sell any of the timber on his claim or on the wood lot appertaining to his claim, to saw-mill proprietors or to any other than settlers for their own private use, shall be guilty of trespass, and may be prosecuted therefor before a Justice of the Peace; and upon conviction thereof shall be subject to a fine or imprisonment, or both; and further, such person shall forfeit his claim absolutely.

For further information, apply to

AGENT OF DOMINION LANDS,

WINNIPEG.

*** The preceding advertisement regulating the disposal of Lands for 110 miles on each side of the Canadian Pacific Railway, when the same may differ in any way from these provisions, must be held to govern within the belts mentioned.


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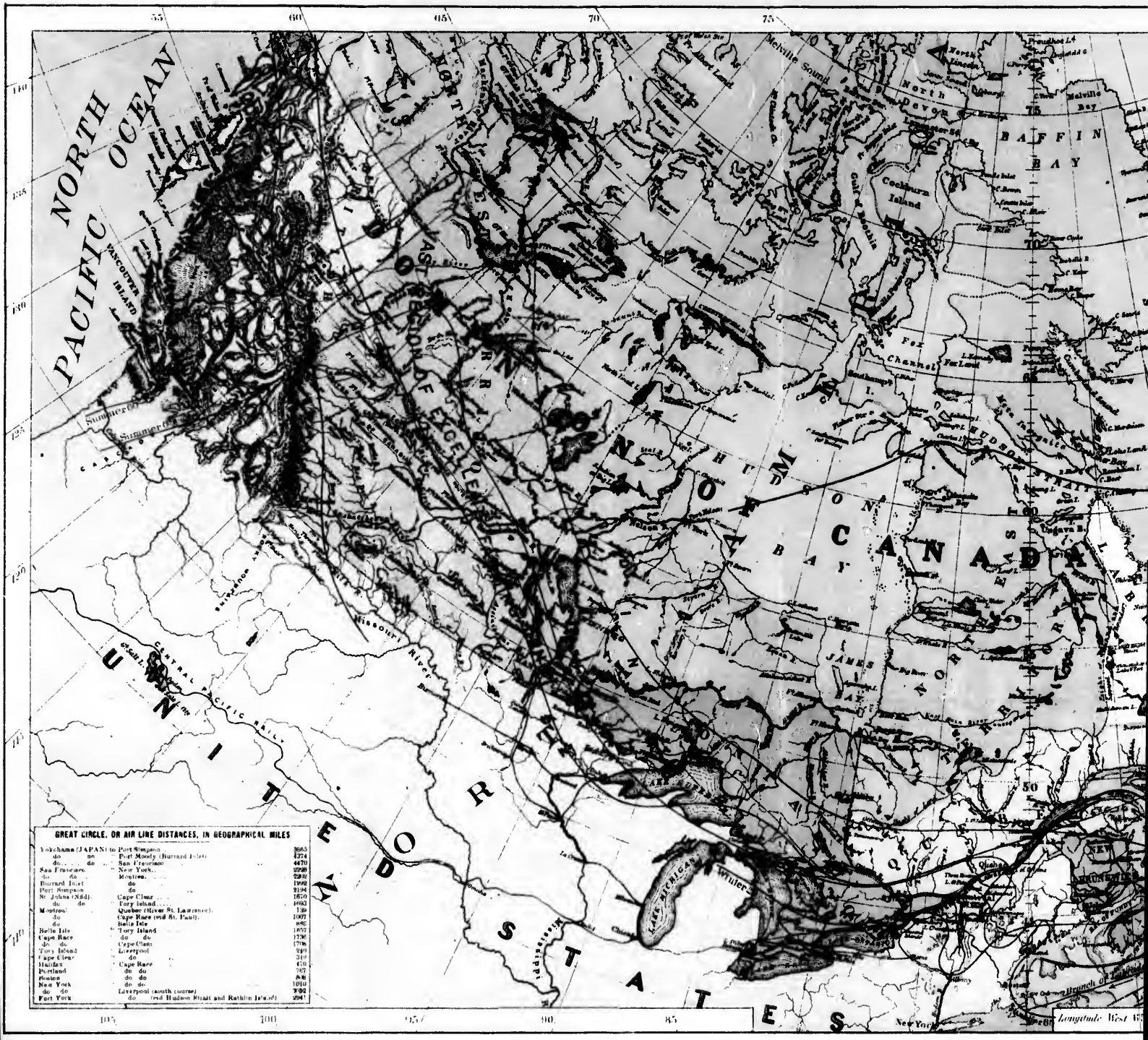

GREAT CIRCLE, OR AIR LINE DISTANCES, IN GEOGRAPHICAL MILES

Yokohama (JAPAN)	to Port Simpson	3685
do do	Port Moody (Burrard Inlet)	3374
do do	San Francisco	4470
San Francisco	New York	2938
do do	Montreal	2202
Burrard Inlet	do	1998
Port Simpson	do	2194
St. Johns (Nfld)	Cape Clear	1670
do do	Tory Island	1053
Montreal	Quebec (River St. Lawrence)	159
do	Cape Race (mid St. Paul)	1007
do	Belle Isle	895
Belle Isle	Tory Island	1857
Cape Race	do do	1796
do do	Cape Clear	1778
Tory Island	Liverpool	240
Cape Clear	do	240
Halifax	Cape Race	470
Portland	do do	767
Boston	do do	846
New York	do do	1010
do do	Liverpool (south course)	3102
Fort York	do (via Hudson Strait and Ruthin Island)	3041

MAP OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA,

SHEWING THE EXTENT AND SITUATION OF ITS PUBLIC LANDS,

ALSO ITS GEOGRAPHICAL RELATION TO THE BRITISH ISLES.

Published by order of
THE HON.ble THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR

1880

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