



## THE TORONTO WORLD

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## FARMING ON THE PRAIRIE

A CITY LAWYER'S TRIP THROUGH MANITOBA AND OTHER TERRITORIES.

What We Saw at Winnipeg—Portage la Prairie in Overgrown, But Busy—The Country as Seen from the Train and the Stagecoach—Life on the Prairies.

The following interesting letter by Mr. All. Hookin, was sent to The World some time ago, but on account of the crowded state of our columns during the Exhibition season we have had to hold it over till to-day. Another letter in continuation of the same subject will follow.

*Editor World.* In August, 1885, I visited Manitoba and the Northwest in search of what I had seen and my impressions of the country. I have lately returned from another trip and, having visited other parts of the prairie in addition to some portions I then saw, it occurred to me that a sketch of what I saw and learned might interest some of your readers.

I left Toronto on Aug. 1, and as I had not

seen the North Shore route determined to go by rail the whole way. There is little bush to be seen for several hundred miles.

There is some picturesque scenery, particularly at Schreiber Station and Jack Fish Bay. North Bay on Lake Nipissing, where there is a change of water, is little more than mud existence four years ago.

There is a fine brick hotel there, and an endeavor is being

made to create a summer watering place.

Although we were three hours late in leaving North Bay we arrived punctually on time at Winnipeg.

The Canadian Pacific Railway is a well managed and the comfort of travel is certain.

The scenes on the dining cars especially could not be bettered.

On Aug. 2, I reached Portage la Prairie.

He said that in the Nipissing valley the soil was very fertile, and in his opinion when operations covered a district 700

miles long it would be quickly settled.

He had under his charge twelve assistants whom operations covered a district 700

miles long.

I arrived at Winnipeg on the morning of Aug. 4. Between Selkirk and that place I saw very little grain; some oats were ripe and others quite green. I drove around the city and found very little change since 1885. It appeared to me that the business was leaving the Hudson Bay Reserve and turning towards the Canadian Pacific Railways. Some prairie houses had been erected of a substantial character and stood all the while, although there had not been much change there had been progress.

The results of inquiries made

was that the people were getting over the evil

effects of the boom, debts were being wiped out and people placed in a position to avail themselves of any changes for the better.

The banks still stand, but the shadow of this usual comodity did not appear to defer them from the determination to build the Red River Valley Railway.

On Sunday I attended divine service at Holy Rosary Cathedral. The Mass was

consecrated Bishop of Saskatchewan.

The service was a very impressive one, attended by a number of clerical and laymen.

Heard a very eloquent sermon in the evening, delivered by the Bishop of North Dakota.

At the mass service several donations were made, amounting to over \$20,000.

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