

the prairie grass. There is a kind of grass which remains green at the bottom all winter. Horned cattle are kept in, in winter; but horses may run out all winter. They feed cattle in the winter. One year he bought a new place, and being short of stabling he left out some of his cattle, and these were the fattest in the spring. They were only sheltered from winds. Snow is generally a foot and a half deep; but in places there are drifts. Weather in winter is dry, and there are no sleety storms. Temperature at times 43° and 44° below zero, but very rarely. Some of his neighbours have left 30 or 40 horses running at large all winter for the last 10 years. They live on prairie grass. When he was in Minnesota it was 41° below zero. They can move about in the cold weather with com. They have no thaws in winter. Snow begins about middle or latter part of November. Winter is steady. Spring commences at end of March and first of April. The roads are sufficient for carriages and all the smaller streams are bridged. From his place to Fort Garry there is a good road. The average height of the prairie grass is not more than a foot. Mowing machines are used. The prairies are subject to fire; and it is against the law to set fire to them in the settlement. There are very few French farmers in the settlement. The French generally pursue hunting. The principal farmers are English and Scotch. Ten years ago there were buffalo in the immediate neighbourhood of Assiniboine. Now there are none inside of 300 miles. There are some rabbits, and the birds are ducks, geese, cranes, swans, snipe, a small partridge, prairie chickens and pigeons. The heat at midsummer goes as high as 90°. Warm weather commences at middle of May. Nights are generally cool. Oats do well and yield 33 lbs. to the bushel. Potatoes do very well, as do also carrots and turnips. Witness said he had not eaten a good potato since he came to Canada. The grasshoppers did not make their appearance till 1857, but had heard they had been there in the early days of the settlement. Their next appearance was in 1864. They did great hurt. For three times within 14 years they have deposited their eggs. He generally described that they were not troubled with other kinds of insects. They don't raise fruit, but they have wild plums, strawberries, choke cherries, cranberries, gooseberries, wild peas, blueberries, sour grapes, currants and some other varieties. They get lumber in the settlement. There is a saw mill at Lake Winnipeg. Lumber is generally cut by hand in saw pits. 100 boards 8 inches wide, cost £2 10s. stg. They have elm but make no use of it. Fencing is made of poplar. Houses are made of frame work and with logs, roofed with thatch. Of fish, they have white fish, sturgeon of a large size—from 100 to 200 lbs.—cat fish, perch, pike and gold eyes. Population of Portage La Prairie is about 300. "Natives, some Canadians, but no French." They have three Episcopalian churches. Presbyterians have their services in a private house at present. Witness has about 40 pupils in his school. He had 76 before the grasshoppers came. He teaches the ordinary branches. The settlement is entirely Protestant. There is a higher school belonging to the Protestants, Bishop Macrae's, at St. John's, where they teach classics, mathematics and theology. There are no Protestants at St. Boniface. Protestants and Catholics do not mix, as a rule. There is a splendid stone cathedral belonging to the Catholics. He considers Red River a finer country than the State of Minnesota. "It is the best country I have ever seen." The only thing to detract from its agricultural advantages is, that it is so far from the sea board. To get a farm, a man goes and stakes off a piece of land, but if it is not improved in six months it is forfeited. They are not troubled by the Indians. There is never now any intermarriage between the Indians and the whites. Women have frequently 14 children.

#### JOSEPH MONKMAN'S EVIDENCE.

*Joseph Monkman* (half-breed), examined—He lives in St. Peter's Parish, Indian Settlement. Speaks English, Chippewa and Cree. His father was an Englishman, and his mother a native of the Cree tribe. He has been as far north as the Norway House, at the extremity of Lake Winnipeg. He has also been up the Saskatchewan River, as far as Moose Lake, and as far as Carlton House, on the North Branch of the Saskatchewan. He has visited the Touchwood Hills, and been along the Qu'Appelle River. Knows the neighbourhood of Rainy Lake and the Lake of the Woods. Has been sometimes in the employ of the Hudson Bay Company. Has been very little hunting and trapping. Was with Mr. Dawson in 1858. Road between Fort Garry and Lake of the Woods is a level, on the whole, with some slight ridges, and runs through a fair country, with the exception of some swamps. Distance between points named, about 90 miles. It is easy to have a railway there. About 15 miles are swampy, but there is a ridge through it for a long distance, of a fine character, wooded. The soil is sandy, as a rule. It is a good soil for 30 miles from Fort Garry. He had heard Mr. Setter's observations about the capabilities of the country. He agreed in them. Mr. Setter has not over rated the advantages of the country. There are pines of 3 feet diameter. Red River is navigated as far as Fort Abercrombie, 290 miles from American territory. Witness farms himself. Last year he had a crop of wheat so heavy that it could not support itself. He sowed his wheat on 22nd April. One bushel sown yields 35. He has seen one grain of wheat make 55 heads. About 65 or 66 lbs. is the average. Barley exceeds wheat in luxuriance. He has seen a crop come off the same land for 25 years,—the last much about the same as the first. It is very uncommon for the late frosts to injure grain. He has had none injured where he lives. Potatoes are invariably fine. He has grown them 2 lbs. each. He keeps 20 or 40 cattle and horses there, and houses his horses, but they can winter out. Snow is considered deep at 3 feet. Hemp grows taller than himself. They make maple sugar. There are a good many American merchants about Fort Garry. Water can be got anywhere they dig on the plains. Fifty miles along the shore of Manitobah Lake as good crops have been raised as on the banks of Red River. He had seen fine wheat 250 miles north of Red River. Passing Fort Pelly, country is full of lakes and brackish water. It is a capital place for cattle. He does not think the frost in the country is at all an injury to farming. He manures his farm very little. He has seen a pumpkin that weighed 23 lbs. They have melons of all kinds.

#### REV. W. FLETCHER'S EVIDENCE.

The *Rev. William Fletcher*, examined, stated—Was born in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, and went to Portage La Prairie in 1868, from Carlisle, Ontario. Had previously been in Canada