

over 20 years, and is a minister of the Canada Presbyterian Church. He has been over a great deal of the Red River country from Portage down the Assiniboine to Fort Garry, and from Fort Garry to Stone Fort on Red River. There are 150 Presbyterian families in his district. He should estimate the population about 12,000 in the districts with which he is acquainted. From Lake Winnipeg to Fort Garry the people are almost entirely Protestant, on both sides of the river. The Protestant churches mix a great deal. There are 10 or 12 of the Church of England, 4 of Presbyterians and 3 other places of meeting in private houses; 5 or 6 Wesleyan Methodist places of meeting. He believed the Catholics and Protestants in the settlement were about equal in numbers. Many of the Roman Catholic churches are built at consid- erable cost, of stone. He should think the cold averaged 30° below zero. The range is more equal than in Canada, and, owing to the dryness of the climate, persons feel the cold less than they do in Canada. He has known it as cold as 40° below zero. On the Assiniboine, seed time began last year on April 16th, and cattle fed then on the wild grass just outside the fences. The wild grass seemed to be refreshed with the winter's snow, and cattle ate it greedily. They prefer it to hay. They had not ploughed before the 16th of April, and then there was some frost in the ground. There has been no potato disease. He has seen excellent vegetables as he ever saw in Canada. On an acre of cabbage not a head wanting, and each ten inches. Indian corn might not be a safe crop, but some early varieties would ripen. Wheat is harvested fully as early as in Canada West. Usual time of harvest is August. He would say the yield of wheat was 30 to 35 bushels per acre. His opinion was that all the cereals did not give less than 20 returns to the bushel down. Grasshoppers were again feared. The weevil and midge are not in the country. He has seen heads of grain growing 5 inches long without a single grain missing. The club wheat he has seen growing is longer than any he has seen in Canada. There is smut in the grain. They prefer their own flour to American. There is a good deal of drinking. Liquor comes chiefly from the States, although some whiskey is made in the settlement. Indians drink when they can get liquor. Traffic in furs has been virtually free for years. As compared with Canada as a home for immigrants, there are some things which cannot be procured, but the country is favourable for farming, and a living can be got at far less cost of labour. The prairie grass returns where the sod has been broken by the plough. The land is very easily drained. Most of the schools are under the control of the Church of England, but worship is everywhere free. He can travel on wheels anywhere in the country. There are no fever and ague, and those who had it on coming to the country, have found it to leave them. There are more French than English half-breeds.

MR. DONALD CODD'S EVIDENCE.

Mr. Donald Codd—Is a draughtsman. Was born in England. Resides in Ottawa. Went to Red River in June, 1869. He was employed by Mr. Snow and Col. Dennis. Country between Oak Point and Fort Garry is excellent land. It is all prairie with clumps of trees, small oak and poplar chiefly. He found the winters very much like the winters at Ottawa, only there were no decided thaws. In summer he remembers the thermometer 92° and 93° in the shade in August, and that was considered a hot summer. The nights were cool, never sultry. They generally burnt poplar for fuel. The hotelkeeper told him he paid 3s. for a small cart-load.

DR. JAMES LYNCH'S EVIDENCE.

James Lynch, examined—He was born at Niagara, but went to settle at Red River in June last. He is a doctor, but went to Red River with intention of farming. He went about the country looking for a suitable place to settle, and finally selected a small settlement up the White Mud River, about 8 miles from the mouth. He settled on the shores of Lake Manitobah in the vicinity of White Mud River. To get his farm he just staked it out of the prairie and declared it his. He staked out a block of 600 acres, and nobody molested him or complained. It was the custom of the country. There were two clumps of trees on it—oak principally—covering 50 acres of ground. The prairie burns every fall. Indians had not complained of his taking his claim, but they should be settled with by the government for their rights. Indians had committed no hostile acts, except killing a few cattle. There are capital fish in Manitobah Lake. Climate resembles that of Canada, except that in summer nights are cool, and weather never sultry. It is a good country for settlement; exceedingly healthy; just such a country as he would like to make his home in. The wheat crop is excellent. He does not know anything about frosts doing any harm in summer. First frost of any severity is September. They make fences with poplar poles. Fuel question may shortly be a difficulty. From 50 to 100 Canadians settled in the territory last summer. Many took up lots just as he did. He saw a great many ducks in the country, and there are a good many elk by the Assiniboine. There are plenty of prairie hens, which are larger than the Western—a cross between the quail and the partridge. The water of the rivers is wholesome, but that of the lakes contains a good deal of sediment. The horses are poor. The cattle are large and very fine. He sees no obstacles to the settlement of Red River that may not be surmounted. Timber may be grown for fuel.

He continued:—If there troubles are settled I intend going back, and will invite my friends to accompany me. I went to the Red River Territory with the intention of becoming a settler, and from what I saw of it I considered it a desirable place of residence and favourable to the occupation I designed to follow, that of stock-breeding and farming. I saw the country with the eyes of a practical farmer—of a Canadian who had travelled considerably over this continent and visited others of the colonies. I saw it during an exceptionally unfavorable summer and autumn and an unusually severe winter. I had ample opportunities of observing those peculiarities which must strike every stranger visiting the country for the first time, and I unhesitatingly give it as my sincerest conviction, that as regards climate, judging from what is prominently noticeable in the general good health and fine physique of the natives, and from my own personal experience, it even possesses many advantages over Canada. The fertility and inexhaustible nature of the soil are superior to that of any other part of the world.

ARTHUR HAMILTON'S EVIDENCE.

Arthur Hamilton, examined—Was born in New Brunswick, but lived the greater part of